



THE SANDMUTOPIAN GUARDIAN

Issue #19

\$ 6.95

*Contracts,
Lines, Clues, &
Streams*

*Sparking
Bench ... to go!*

*Making Your Own
Poppers
and Other Bullwhip Tricks*

The SandMUtopian Guardian

Practical, Factual, Pansexual

Published quarterly for men and women in the BDSM scene.
A reality-based publication with information of interest to people
of a variety of persuasions, polarities and fetishes.

No fiction, no fantasy, no poetry.

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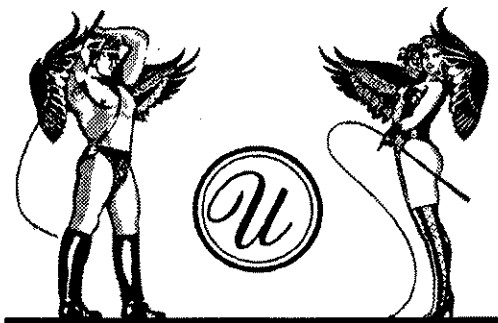
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"... but we don't take American Express!"



Our Guardian Angels

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ABOUT THE COVER: Apparently the only *real* painting of the ones described, in Leopold von Sacher-Masoch's magnum opus, *Venus in Furs*, Titian's "Venus at (or With) a Mirror," is a study of a 16th Century woman in her chamber. (Oh, yes, we certify that the cherubs were painted before November 1990 and so are exempt from the requirements of the new Child Protection and Restoration Act of 1995!) In his novel, Sacher-Masoch describes three different Venuses: one in the author's dream which is of marble in the moonlight; the second that of Severin in his room, complete with whip -- and *this* one, "on the wall opposite."



The image of a woman draped with, or surrounded by, furs was a popular erotic fantasy image of mid-nineteenth century European men. Additionally, we believe it is not accidental that Titian used the fur to cover her "mound of Venus," while giving it the texture to suggest the human hair underneath.

Letters to the Editor

Our Readers' Forum

Send your comments, queries or criticisms to: Editor, c/o The Utopian Network, PO Box 1146, New York, NY 10156 or FAX to (516) 842-7518. e-mail to siradam@ix.netcom.com. Name and address please, which will be held confidential.

Dear Mitch and Gerrie:

Congratulations on delivering such a great publication on your maiden voyage. It will be a difficult task to maintain the level of quality found in Issue #18.

There were so many triumphs this time that it's hard to know where to start. No doubt the article on branding presented a real challenge because it described such an extreme practice, yet Laura Antoniou gave us an account that was not only technically accurate but literary and sensitive as well. My favorite piece was the one about food play, particularly the suggestion for serving a bunch of grapes to party guests. Now, walking down the aisles of the supermarket will trigger the delicious daydreams that used to be reserved for the hardware store.

The one disappointment was the article about naval discipline....The letdown was because the article said so little about a subject that could have fed a month of fantasies. Winston Churchill is reputed once to have said that the Royal Navy runs on rum, sodomy and flogging, yet this short article acknowledged only one of those sins. It ignores the more exotic maritime disciplines ...not to mention all the creative things that could be done with so much rope...

If the author's intent had been to arouse and tease, but leave us unsatisfied, then he was successful.

Despite this one criticism, you did a great job. It may be tedious, bothersome, frustrating, and even painful to produce a high quality product on a regular schedule every time, but don't give up. Embrace the pain for our pleasure -- isn't that what this scene is all about?

(Name and address withheld by request.)

Dear Adam & Gillian:

Thank you for purchasing the Guardian. We married folk in small towns or even in large towns need a Popular Mechanics magazine.

Some suggestions for future articles or even regular columns:

A sew it yourself column, we heteros are so into costume.

A build it yourself column, for both the welder and carpenter.

A way to store all the accoutrement, where it is accessible and organized but also able to be locked and hidden.

A home gym/dungeon, mirrors, ballet barres, double duty benches?

A hardware column, what to look for, what not to buy, what ask for at the industrial supply and not look like an idiot.

Speaking of which, one of the most overlooked sources for the dungeon is the yacht supply store. Yacht braid is a type of rope that was developed specifically to be used by human hands, it has a soft cover and comes in sizes, colors and with color tracers. There is also a myriad of hardware available all in gleaming no-rust stainless steel - rings, sail clips, shackles, eye bolts, eye pads, etc. Looking forward to the next regular issue.

David W., Hawaii

Dear Mitch & Gerrie:

Congratulations on a fine issue of *The Guardian*. I'm so glad it's in such good hands. Keep up the good works. As ever.

Janette Heartwood, California

Hello from London.

Delighted to receive news that the Guardian is not only under new management but East Coast management! Congratulations and good wishes for success in a field which needs broader coverage than it's been receiving...

MJ - Fetters of London.

Dear Publishers & Editors:

Thank you for saving the Guardian from possible oblivion. I am only starting on my journey of experiencing being a dominant as an adult. I believe in researching new subjects in depth. This publication provides an array of informative articles and a forum for discussion, that I might have trouble finding otherwise. ... My profession is freelance illustrating. I'm

looking for publishers and of-age (21+) collectors to offer my illustrating talents. Please send me your guidelines... thanks again for salvaging the Guardian.

Richard Thaxton, Georgia

Dear Mitch & Gerrie:

Relive with me for a moment my gamut of emotion over just one simple mail delivery.

There it was at the bottom of the small pile. The "plain brown wrapper." The internationally recognized semaphore, known to ... perverts, "Herein lies excitement!" I tore things open and my oh my, what a happy rush!

There it was, #18. I am an old-timer when it comes to holding a subscription to this mag, and have been proud to hang in there through a couple of incarnations....

So, won't you all please rise and join with me in making a joyful noise. "Our" zine is saved. And not just that. It has been saved by and is now in the nurturing hands of good people who prove daily by word and deed and lifestyle that they know the value of fetish driven LOVE. ...

As a student of and mover and shaker within the S&M scene over the last 45 years, I have watched it become populated by greedy and far too often downright dishonest people.... The two of you are like the rare Jewels in the Crown.

So, thank you for rescuing one of my favorite magazines and again most especially thank s for doing it with such class and grace. With folks like you involved and in charge, perhaps one day there is a chance we may reach Mr. De Blases's SandM Utopia....

Captain Latex, New York

Dear Adam & Gillian:

We are happy that you are continuing the *Guardian*. It is helpful in assisting the education of some of our acquaintances who are inexperienced but deeply curious. ...

Barbara Ann, Pennsylvania

Letters, Continued

Dear Mitch & Gerrie:

From all your friends at *Get Kinky* magazine and Contact Advertising:

CONGRATULATIONS..

Just got the "new" Guardian (#18) and found it pure joy to read. I especially like Mitch's insightful essay on knives.

I'd like to add a point to his observations about the visual and aural thrills of SM knife play and that is the scary sound produced when you run a steel along the edge.

I hadn't thought of it as such when I was making a living as a meat cutter, but when were hosting (friends at dinner) I "stealed" the edge of my butcher knife a couple of licks. (The submissive) shivered at the sound and asked what it was.

My evil self came to the fore and I slowly brought the steel across the edge a couple of more times with my expression getting more demented with each pass. (She) just about became unglued at the sound and asked, "What are you going to do with that?" as I tested the edge with my thumb.

With my best Cruel Rake glance, I said, "Make dog food." I believe the little slut wet herself right there on my couch!

Anyway, the magazine looks great and I know the two of you will do great things

Herman Nietzsche, Editor, Get Kinky

Greetings:

Congratulations on your purchase... I'd like to see more "how to" and "what's available" articles and less discussion of issues like legality, philosophy, etcetera...

Roy, New York

Hi, folks -

Great to find that you ... will resume publishing (The Guardian)... the content and format look better than ever. I am a charter subscriber and have every issue since Desmodus started with Carol Truscott as its first editor. We have waited patiently each time publication ceased. We especially thank you for rescuing it this time and resuming publication of the best magazine in its field.

Paul, California

Message

We did it! We said we would bring

back *The Guardian* —

and we did! And, to prove that it was not just a "flash in the pan" — we went and, (with much appreciated help from our friends,) met deadline again! Our distributor, Brush Creek Media, actually sold out, and called to ask us to send reinforcements!

So ... a big Thank You to everyone who has been so supportive of our venture: Subscribers, Retailers, Advertisers Writers and Illustrators.

Thanks, too, to the readers who took the trouble to offer such uniformly constructive criticism. We WILL will be considering their comments as we plan future issues. For example we're working hard to upgrade our photography and graphics. Improvement is probably going to be gradual, and we're not trying to become a slick, sexy-fashion, picture book. But, if you are a photographer or illustrator, amateur or professional, who is willing to take the first step and make yourself known to us, we would like to consider your work. And, we need entries for our Photo Contest, too. (We know you're out there!)

If you have knowledge you're willing to share, consider writing for us as well. Find the Author's Guidelines on page 47.

In this issue, Mitch and our friend, Slug, built a spanking bench from the bottom up, so to speak. The step-by-step process is our Centerfold. So, get out your tools and follow along. Check out Conrad's article as well, about creative screwing.

For those who are a little more cerebral than handy, *Fag!* is here because it is *not*, strictly speaking, fiction. Thomas Hughes freely admitted during his lifetime that *Tom Brown's Schooldays* was a *roman à clef*, a thinly disguised version of his experiences at Rugby (and later at Oxford.) It also serves as a good companion piece to the caning article. After all, caning was known as "the English vice."

Gerrie & Mitch

"Getting Government Off Our Backs," and "Creating a Business-Friendly Environment."

We now have to live with the Child Protection Restoration and Penalties Enhancement Act of July 3, 1995, *all advertisers and publishers are required to keep model releases and photo ID's for materials containing images covered by the Act.* There are two categories of exemption: (1) images produced prior to November 1, 1990; and (2) images containing *simulated* rather than *actual* sexually explicit conduct. A Certificate must accompany each image, and must certify and warrant: That none of the photographs contain visual depictions of *actual* sexually explicit conduct, as that term is defined by 18 U.S.C. 2257 (h) (1) and related statutes and regulations, that *none* are of any of the following actual conduct: (1) any contact between the genitals or anus of one person and the mouth or genitals of another person, (2) masturbation, (3) *sadistic or masochistic abuse* or (4) bestiality, and that any depiction in any of the photographs which might appear to consist of any of the foregoing conduct in fact depicts only *simulated* sexually explicit conduct, as that term is defined in and understood in connection with 18 U.S.C.2257 (h)(1) and related statutes and regulations.

Six of the Best: Canes & Caning

by Sir Adam

There is a good deal more to caning than one person simply hitting another with a stick.

A cane can be used mildly, even sensually, by a reasonably skilled and self-controlled Caner. But the mystique and the appeal of The Cane, as opposed to any number of other long thin things you can hit with, is that is used for intense, deliberate and severe Corporal Correction of Miscreants. Psychologically, it can be highly fetishized and formal. Physically, it places great demands on the Canee's resolution and fortitude. For the caner It is almost an equally challenging exercise in concentration, technical skill, and psychological dominance..

Negotiation

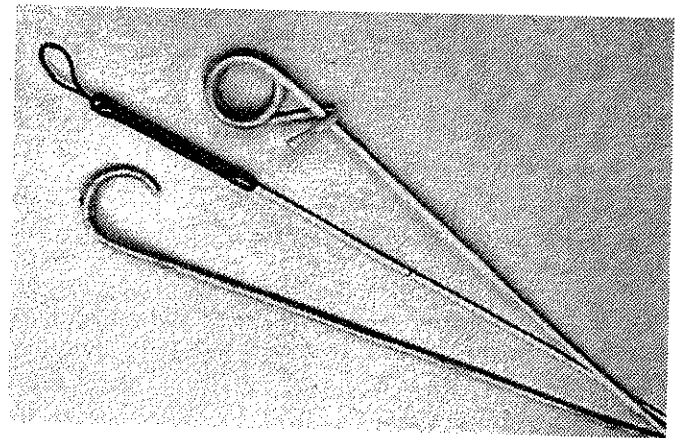
It is fairly traditional for formal caning scenes to be conducted without a safeword. Once the canee has agreed to a certain number of strokes, that is the number that must be endured ... regardless. As a result, caning is probably one of those practices that benefits from a good deal of discussion (negotiation) beforehand, and the "permission" to discuss it afterward.

First the issues of "how much pain" and "how much marking" need to be resolved. Equally important is the issue of "who are we and why are we doing this?" Is this a punishment scenario, an ordeal, or a demonstration of skill on one hand and fortitude on the other? Is caning going to be used to punish actual misdeed? Are there strong feelings or values concerning sense of "youthful victim" found in so much of caning literature and fantasy?

It's also worthwhile to explore what happens after the actual caning. Is the canee to be left in place (enjoying an endorphin euphoria, one hopes) ... required to dress and depart (as in boarding school scenarios) ... or when the scene ends, is there to be aftercare such as cuddling, nurturing, or sex?

The Sensuous Caning

To use a cane mildly, employ a tapping technique, powered by the wrist alone. The actual sensation can be described



as "sharp," "stinging" or "focused." Its severity will vary based on the strength of the taps, their frequency, and how close together they land. As much as there can be an objective definition of what is "mild" and what is severe," the dividing line for canes may be that a love tap is silent, but a stroke you can hear is one you'll really feel! A mild blow will not bend the cane, either on impact or while traveling to its target. Used full-force, the cane is usually applied only to the buttocks, but these lighter taps may be used on almost any part of the body without too much anxiety about damaging tissues or relationships. Targets that are usually considered "off-limits" for whips and floggers, such as the palms, soles, or calves can be explored. Even the back and chest can be hit, within reason.

The Real Thing

A "Proper Caning" is a completely different matter. One stroke "of the best" feels like a knife edge of fire and lightning that blots out every other thought and sensation. As the initial blaze fades, an aftershock — still sharp, localized, but with a bit of dull achiness — begins to sink in, feeling as if the strip runs clear to the bone and beyond. Then the stroke fades to an afterglow some may find almost pleasant, others, almost endurable. The second is the same ... only more so. And so on until the full quantity is completed. Significant marking by each and every stroke is to be expected, and breaking of the skin is not unlikely. The sensation of the cane is such that a single dozen, or even "six of the best," is usually entirely sufficient in most people's reckoning. A caning of 24 strokes is sometimes referred to as "the Military Caning" and is a serious ordeal in anyone's estimation.

This does not mean, however, that a "Proper Caning" scene need be short either objectively or subjectively. In fact, prolonged anticipation, elaborate preparation, and resolute cooperation by the Canee are important elements in a fully-realized traditional caning. In the Victorian educational setting, boys set down for caning might wait several days before presenting themselves and a memorandum of their wrongdoing to the senior Educator who would actually chastise them. When used as authentic behavior modifying punishment, the anxiety and

expectation brought on by the *promise* of caning for misbehavior, might be felt almost as keenly as the actual strokes.

In consensual erotic practice, some people will increase pain tolerance with a spanking, flogging or paddling before the caning. It could be purely a matter of mental preparation ... it might be endorphin release ... sexual arousal could be raising the pain threshold ... or the impact and subsequent engorgement may actually desensitize the nerves ... it seems paradoxical but it does work.

A preparation ritual is not uncommon, often utilizing aspects of the traditional school canings. Sometimes the offense for which the punishment is being administered is described, the punishee may be required to fetch and present the cane in a particular manner and kiss or otherwise show "it" respect and gratitude before presenting it (again in a prescribed manner) to the caner.

Bared Bottoms

Schoolboys might be caned "trousers up" OR "trousers down, with the tails of their jackets and shirts pinned up and out of the way. This process of securing the excess clothing is what is known as "taking up." What it provides in convenience and modesty the "trousers up" style of caning has practical and aesthetic drawbacks. Aesthetically it deprives Caner of agreeable sights, first of the bared bottom, and then the development of an even row of neatly spaced cane-strips. Practically, the punishee is less likely to take excessive damage if the Caner can see the effect of each "strike" as it happens. In addition, the formal "taking down" of trousers and/or knickers adds, in this context, at least the potential for feelings of humiliation and powerlessness.

Once "pinned up" and "taken down" the punishee is "bent over." The more extreme the bend (grasping the ankles, for example) the more effect the cane cuts will have. Bending also exaggerates the curve of the bottom, for the Caner's visual pleasure, and limits the the punishee's ability to minimize the blow by clenching the muscles of the buttocks. The bent-over position also assures that the cane will not land above the tail bone where it might conceivably do some damage.

Some caners will insist on nearly impossible perfection in positioning — arched back, buttocks presented, legs straight, head up, shoulders back — both before and during the caning. Lapses of posture may be a cause for increasing the number of strokes, or may form the basis for verbal harassment and humiliation. This, of course, adds to everyone's enjoyment of the encounter.

Once bent over, the punishee may be required to endure a period of waiting for the first strike. The caner may sweep the cane through the air a few times for the sake of the sound, or so that the punishee can feel its "wind," and hear its charac-

teristic noise. The punishee very quickly learns the difference between the sound of the cane being merely swished through the air, and the hiss of the final approach.

To increase the anticipation some Caners will require that the punishee *request* each stroke and count the cane strokes either as they fall, or before each stroke is delivered. At the same time the caner may intensify the anticipation either by holding the cane away from the target entirely, or touching it lightly to express growing impatience with the "cowardly delay."

In addition the canee may be required to count each stroke according to a prescribed formula:

*"ONE Sir (or M'am, or Miss) Thank you Sir,
May I have another, Sir ..."*

Losing count or miscounting can be a "reason" to start over, or "earn" the subject another caning at another time.

It is worth remembering that these tricks, formal counting, posture correction, lecturing, etc., not only add to the ritual and psychology of the caning ... they also can be used to control the pace of the caning. The caner wants to allow enough time between strokes to let the canee enjoy the full benefit of each stroke while at the same time recovering enough to be able to accept another. This is necessary for the same reason that a blow from a cane is called a "strike" or a "cut" — the sensation has a certain amount in common with the effects associated with lightning and swords.

A Proper Caning is an ordeal, an exercise in significant pain. A skilled practitioner with quality materials can soon have a canee cherishing every stripe on their body — and coming back for more.

Caning Technique

Acquiring the necessary skill for this is not really difficult, but it does call for the investment of some time and effort. The novice caner will want to develop accuracy first. This is not a skill to develop by practicing on your Significant Other. A dusty blanket or quilt, folded over the back of a high backed chair is a much better choice. You might want to dust a palm sized circle with carpenter's chalk, to give you a better idea of where your strokes are landing. The target area is roughly 7" high, 9" wide, 30 - 35" from the floor. (You might also have your S.O. sit in some non-toxic paint, bend over, back up to the blanket and thereby mark the exact target you'll be trying for.)

Once you are certain of hitting your mark each and every time you are ready to work on gaining control of speed and impact. A partner with a high pain threshold and a forgiving nature is of inestimable value here, as is your willingness to increase the the impact from taps to strikes in very small increments. At this stage of development, you may want to consider taking a few stripes, and even a full dozen or two (at differ-

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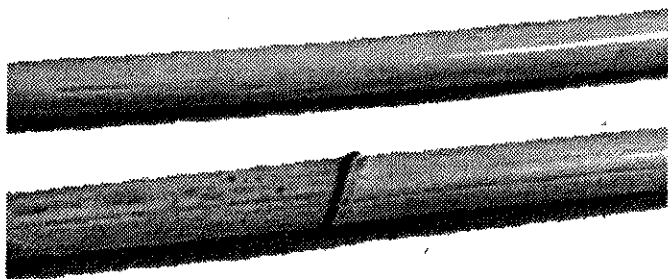
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probably the most devastating. She advocates a very supple wrist action, with the time taken to draw the cane back exactly equal to the time required for the forward motion of the blow. This introduces the most extreme bend in the cane, to the extent that its tip may actually strike the caner's back. The caner stands with weight centered over well-planted feet, with the extended cane hand even with, or slightly back of the presented buttocks. The blow completes even with or just behind the plane of the presented buttocks. A skilled practitioner may introduce a bit of hip rotation to increase the distance of travel, and may cock the cane-wrist backward a bit as the backswing reaches its most extreme point.

Cane strikes of that severity should absolutely be restricted to areas of deep fat and muscle. Its probably worth remembering that a Proper Caning PERFECTLY done will leave a set of parallel stripes exactly one cane-diameter apart, with no stripe at or above the level of tailbone, nor below the point where the buttocks join the thighs.

CHOOSING A CANE

A good cane is one that will land where it is aimed, and have the effect that is intended. That leaves a lot of leeway for personal choice and preference. Most canes on the market



today are between 3/16 and 3/8" in diameter. Any smaller is too whippy and flexible to be really accurate, much larger too heavy and club-like to be really recreational. Thin canes cut and sting more than thick ones. They leave red welts that fade more quickly, but are more likely to break skin. Thicker canes not only have more mass, but are stiffer and can be made longer than thin ones and as a result are, all things being equal, more severe and more damaging.

Rattan is sold in two forms "Kooboo" is the natural unprocessed form. It ranges in color from pale yellow to a mottled brown. Each stick tapers slightly, with visible segments along its length. "Polished Reed" is the processed form, favored by furniture makers. The outer skin, coloring, and joints have been sanded off and the stick is of a uniform diameter. Kooboo needs no additional finishing for use as a cane. Polished Reed is somewhat porous, and lacks stiffness. On the other hand, Polished Reed is available in precise sizes and is very uniform. It is very attractive when finished with varnish

or epoxy resin, which also helps correct the lack of stiffness. Some people prefer the slower action of the polished reed cane, which enables them to use a longer and thicker stick than their partner(s) could tolerate in the stiffer Natural finish.

How much damage a cane will do depends as much on the speed with which it travels as with its mass and diameter. A long stiff cane can achieve greater tip velocity than a shorter or thinner one. For a thin-ish cane 24 to 30" will be about right; for a thick one, 36 to 40". If there is an "average" or "normal cane" it is about 5/16" in diameter and 32-35" long.

The infamous Singapore cane, is roughly 1/2" in diameter and 48" long. The first 8-10" are soaked in water, overnight, before use. In the hands of fit and skilled police official, this instrument is so savage that 12 blows are considered adequate corporal punishment (imposed in addition to fines and prison time) for felony crimes such as rape and robbery.

The combination of length, thickness, and composition produces a balance of stiffness and flexibility called "bone." How much bone you want is a matter of taste and experience as much as anything else. Natural rattan has more bone than the same species sanded to polished reed. Polished reed is a

(continued on page 37)

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Discipline in 19th Century Rugby

by Mitch Kessler

tions are rose-tinted by nostalgia. They offer no explicit details of the physical punishments nor do they hint at anything but the most chaste and asexual relationships among the students, servants and Masters in his Alma Mater. What he does let slip, however, gives plenty of material from which a modern reader can infer much.

Rugby was one of the better Public Schools available to Imperial England's upwardly mobile Middle Class. Its graduates were accepted at the Best Universities and if they did not take up private careers in the Trades or Professions, became Field Grade Military Officers, Imperial Administrators, and Members of Parliament. Like other Public Schools, Rugby was a completely autonomous and private institution. It was supported by students' families, through tuition, endowments, legacies and gifts. However, in practice, the Headmaster was as much an Autocrat as the Czar of Russia, or the Captain of a warship.

In the 1830's the Headmaster of Rugby was a Doctor Arnold, later famous as one of the most respected, learned, and unyielding advocates of Corporal Punishment in schools. His views on the subject were cited in educational circles for more than a century.

A particularly revealing view of the Public School and its discipline comes down to us in Thomas Hughes' *Tom Brown's Schooldays*. What makes this book fascinating is that Hughes considered his years at Rugby the finest years of his life. His admiration for its Head Master was unbounded. In short he was an enthusiastic and uncritical supporter of the Public School System as he had experienced it as a boy. His recollec-

We know from many sources that Classroom discipline was harsh. Hughes approvingly reports that it could also be capricious, even when practiced by the much-admired Dr. Arnold:

The boy who was called up first was a clever merry Schoolhouse boy, one of their set: he was some connection of the Doctor's, and a great favourite, and ran in and out of his house as he liked, and so was selected for the first victim.

'Triste lupus stabulis,' began the luckless youngster, ...
'There, that will do,' said the Doctor, 'now construe.'
(translate)

'Triste lupus, the sorrowful wolf,' he began.

... the Doctor's wrath fairly boiled over; he made three steps up to the construer, and gave him a good box (punch) on the ear. The blow was not a hard one, but the boy was so taken by surprise that he started back; the form caught the back of his knees and over he went on to the floor behind. There was a dead silence over the whole School; never before and never again while Tom was at school did the Doctor strike a boy in lesson. The provocation must have been great.

Although the Head and his Masters provided ample punishment in the form of caning and birchings, Rugby Boys received little or no adult supervision outside the Classroom. All other discipline, was attended to by the most academically advanced (Sixth Form) boys. These Upperclassmen could

impose corporal punishment. They could confiscate the boys' allowance money. In addition, under a loosely applied rotational system, younger boys were required to act as part-time servants to older boys. This state of affairs was called "FAGGING." In theory, the older boys were learning leadership and responsibility. In practice, unsupervised boys of 15-18 were put in charge of boys 11-14, with the "public opinion" of other boys the setting the only limits.

'I say, Green,' Snooks began. 'isn't that new boy, Harrison, your fag?'

'Yes, why?'

'Oh, I know something of him at home, and should like to excuse him—will you swop?'

'Who will you give me?'

'Hall and Brown.'

'Wouldn't have 'em as a gift.'

'Better than East, though, for they ain't quite so sharp,' ... Did I ever tell you how the young vagabond sold (cheated) me last half?'

'No—how?'

'Well, he never half cleaned my study out, only just stuck the candlesticks in the cupboard, and swept the crumbs on to the floor. So at last I was mortal angry and had him up, made him go through the whole performance under my eyes: the dust the young scamp made nearly choked me ...'

'Now, young gentle man,' says I, 'mind, I expect this to be done every morning, floor swept, tablecloth taken off and shaken, an' everything dusted.' ...

I was quite sure in a day or two that he never took the tablecloth off, even. So I laid a trap for him: I tore up some paper and put half a dozen bits on my table one night, and the cloth over them as usual. Next morning, ... (I) pulled off the cloth, ... there was the paper ... I, ... sent for him, while I got out my cane. .

'Didn't I tell you to shake my tablecloth every morning?' I roared. 'Yes,' says he. 'Did you do it this morning?' 'Yes.' 'You young liar! I put those pieces of paper on the table last night, and if you'd taken the tablecloth off you'd have seen them, so I'm going to give you a good licking.'

Then my youngster ... just stoops down and picks up two of the bits of paper ... there was written on each ... 'Harry East, his mark.' The young rogue had found my trap out, taken away my paper, and put some of his there, ...

'I'd a great mind to lick him for his impudence ...,' but ... I didn't. ... I was at his mercy ... my study was so frowsy, I couldn't sit in it.'

Green is one of the "steadiest" and most humane of the upperclassmen. But even in Hughes' idealized view of Public School, he is an exception.

Matters were not so comfortable either in the house as they had been, for old Brooke left at Christmas, and one or two others of the sixth-form boys at the following Easter. Their rule had been rough, but strong and just in the main. ...

The new praepostors were either small young boys, ... or else big fellows of the wrong sort ... who had not caught the meaning of their position and work.

Several other Lower Form Boys bound themselves not to fag for the fifth form. ... 'I've a good mind to go to the Doctor straight,' said Tom. 'That 'll never do, don't you remember the levy of the School last half?' put in another.

In fact that solemn assembly, a levy of the School, had been held, at which the captain of the School (a 6th Form Boy) had got up, and, after premising that several instances had occurred of matters having been reported to the masters, (said) that this was against public morality and School tradition, that a levy of the Sixth had been held on the subject, and they had resolved that the practice must be stopped at once, had given out that any boy ... who should thenceforth appeal to a master without having *first* gone to some praepostor ... should be thrashed publicly and sent to Coventry.

So, under this no-government the ... big fifth-form boys, ... soon began to usurp power, and to fag the little boys as if they were praepostors, and to bully and oppress any who showed signs of resistance. ... So the fags were without their lawful masters and protectors, and ridden over rough-shod by a set of boys whom they were not bound to obey, and whose only right over them stood in their bodily powers.

As an example of how far "bodily powers" could be exercised, Hughes gives this example:

The sporting set now gathered round Tom. Public opinion wouldn't allow them actually to rob him of his ticket, but, any humbug or intimidation by which he could be driven to sell the whole or part at an under-value was lawful.

'Very well then, let's roast him,' cried Flashman, and catches hold of Tom by the collar; one or two boys hesitate, but the rest join in. ... Tom is dragged along struggling. His shoulders are pushed against the mantelpiece, and he is held by main force before the fire, Flashman drawing his trousers tight by way of extra torture.

'Will you sell now for ten shillings?' says one boy ...

Tom only answers by groans and struggles.

'I say, Flashey, he has had enough,' says the same boy, dropping the arm he holds.

'No, no, another turn'll do it,' answers Flashman. But poor Tom is done already, turns deadly pale, and his head falls forward on his breast.

In short, Fagging created opportunities for future functionaries of the expanding British Empire to practice the exercise of power on experimental subjects, who would in THEIR turn teach the next generation of fledgling World Rulers important lessons in the treatment of "lesser breeds," "lower classes," and "other ranks."

But, only the servitors from one's own class were summoned to their duties by bellowing ... *F aaaaaaaag!*

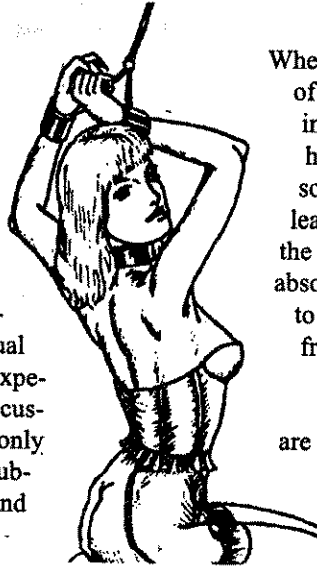
And that word is with us to this day!

Visiting a Professional Submissive

by Stephen

Professional submissives are less common than professional dominants, so much so that many people I've spoken to were not aware that the services of a submissive could be purchased.

While typically you can only find professional submissives in larger cities, there are a few enterprising souls who travel around the country, and individual practitioners that service local areas. My personal experience is in the New York City area, and so I'll be focusing there. As well, for this article, I'll be speaking only of hiring a female submissive. The market for male submissives is driven by entirely different forces, and would be a different article.



Whenever you play with someone, part of the focus of the scene is on the other person. As all human interactions are an exchange of some sort, you have to compensate the person you are topping somehow, and usually that comes in the form of learning what he or she will enjoy and pushing the right buttons. Even if you are the most absolute top in the world, if you want your partner to come back, she or he has to get something from the experience.

With professionals you know what they are getting from the experience. Typically it's between \$125-\$200 for an hour of their time and effort. This frees you to try things that won't have any value for the other party; to try things that might not work (so as to perfect them before using them on the person you are trying to seduce) and to try things that you would be embarrassed to admit liking to someone whom you had to see ever again (or someone who could spread the tale around the community that you really like being called "The Grand Poo-Bah of Gor").

WHERE THE IDEA CAME FROM

I first ran across the idea of hiring someone to bottom to me many years ago, in a "documentary" piece about a person who visited a legal prostitute in Nevada who also bottomed. While the article had not even a hint of truth to it, the idea stayed with me.

When I started traveling to New York City I found the commercial sex papers there, and out of curiosity I looked in the SM sections. I found quite a few houses selling the services of dominants, and to my surprise a few also listed submissives. I continued to watch the ads over the years. The prices varied a little bit over time, but the idea consistently intrigued me.

What did you get for your money? What couldn't you do? How did they protect themselves? How did the economics work? How would acquiring consent by paying for it change the nature of a scene?

The chance to find out came this last summer. I took a job in New York, so there would be time to experiment with this.

WHY VISIT A PROFESSIONAL?

It's important before employing a professional service of any sort to ask yourself: why you are employing this service, and what you intend to get out of it. There are things hiring a professional submissive will get you — and things that it won't. Primary among the things it *will* get you, in my opinion, is total self-focus.

Another common reason is simple aesthetics. There is something pleasant about having a lovely young lady kneeling at your feet and calling you "Master." Given a bit more than a hundred dollars and an hour to spare, taking an attractive and willing victim over your knee and adding color to her cheeks can be a pleasant way to spend the evening. It can be worthwhile as well, if you are in the mood to just top someone without much of the emotional entanglements. (One famous actor in Hollywood once said of prostitutes "I don't pay them to have sex with me. I pay them to leave.")

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T (WHAT YOU DON'T GET)

There are, however, desires that you should not take to a professional. If you are lonely, find a friend to hang out with.

If you are looking for a girlfriend, place personal ads, go to bars, stand on street corners and proposition people — but don't go to a professional! This is business, and she isn't going to see you outside of business hours. If you solely "take power in order to give your partner pleasure," then you had best stick with social play partners. Professional submissives are working, not necessarily enjoying themselves — though they are more than capable and willing to pretend, if that makes you more comfortable. You have to go into the experience remembering that you are doing it for you.

If you want to hit someone harder than you can hit your regular partner, you can probably forget it. While I interacted with what the houses called their "moderate to heavy" players, I found their pain tolerances to be on the low side. One should remember that these women have to be able to play again after you leave, and that limits what they can give each individual customer. If you are just looking to whale away on someone full out, this isn't the way to achieve that.

The rules at all three of the places I researched were pretty much the same. No marks, no blindfolds, no gags, and no sex (penetration). The last rule is for legal reasons. Technically, without sex hiring a professional submissive might not be prostitution. That's far from definite, and doesn't stop the police from harassing the houses and the workers, but they play it safe anyway. Each of the ladies I played with reported that they frequently encountered requests to perform sexually in addition to their other services. It was equally clear that no reasonable amount of money would have convinced them to get me off. If that's what you're interested in, it's better to visit a conventional prostitute and negotiate some arrangement to top her as well. It's significantly more expensive and less reliable, but such sex workers can be found.

The rule on blindfolds and gags is for the submissives' safety, so they can see if you go for something dangerous and call out for help. Security in both the establishments I visited was had by way of thin walls, (which could get to be fun if the room next to yours had an interesting scene going on). Gags are prohibited as well, to enable the submissive to "safeword." All submissives had a safeword. Typically the safeword was "mercy" (always a good way to be polite while communicating a limit), at which point the customer is required to change activities, though not to end the scene entirely.

It's important to be aware that usually, you will have to use the submissive's equipment. This provides physical safety and safety from disease, as they know how clean the implements are. They are typically well equipped for bondage, but not so well for flogging or other impact play.

HOW THINGS WORK

First you have to find a submissive to hire. If you have sex-papers for your area, they will have ads for professional houses of domination, some of which may offer submissives. If none do in your area, it might be worth calling the various dominants to see if any will switch. Some will bottom as well, but don't advertise the fact. Be polite and to the point when you call, so as to not waste their time or yours, and be prepared for some less than polite answers with a reasonable amount of posturing in them. If your area doesn't have sex-papers, then you should find whatever alternative or entertainment newspapers do exist and look in the personal ads. Some of the national SM newspapers and mini-mags usually contain advertising for professional submissives on a regional basis. Anywhere where you might find a personal ad is a good place to look.

If you are going to call a house, the first thing they ask is if you've been there before. If not, they'll give you the general address, and tell you to call again when you've gotten closer. On the second call they will give you the street address, typically about a half a block away.

The "house mistress" will let you in and take you to a room where you will be instructed to strip. That's right! You may be the dominant, but you will be interviewing the submissives without your clothing. If you aren't up to that, then probably you'd best stay at home — this is not optional. They say this is to make sure that you are not carrying concealed weapons, but actually it's to make sure you are not law enforcement personnel. You are permitted to get dressed only after you've selected a submissive and money has changed hands. (I was informed that a good number of men do not get dressed after that, and proceed through the rest of the scene one-handed.)

The women who are on duty will come in one by one to speak with you. Some of the better ones will be "in role" from that point, but generally they are trying to give you a chance to look at their bodies, and to ask you what kind of scene you have in mind. They know what they are good at, and what they aren't willing to do, so it's best to be up-front about what you have in mind. After they have all visited, you tell the house

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Bottoms Up!

A Look at Spanking Positions

by Anonymous

One of the factors that sets spanking apart from other forms of swatting is the deliberate and sometimes ceremonial positioning of the participants. While some spankings are haphazard, I prefer spankings that include the ritual of positioning. Both the spankee and spanker adopt positions that facilitate and enhance the spanking. These positions generally work to the advantage of the spanker and the disadvantage of the spankee. The spanker enjoys the following advantages from the position.

Comfort: Whether standing or sitting, spankers are positioned to be comfortable throughout the spanking. They are able to swing their arms at a natural angle and able to sustain a lengthy spanking with ease because of their position.

Strength: Because they are able to wind up and freely swing their arm at a natural angle, the spankers are able to apply swats to the intended target with force. While standing, the spanker cannot only swing their arm but rotate the body to deliver maximum energy to an anxiously awaiting, clenching derriere.

Full access to the bottom to be spanked: The spankee's position is designed to fully expose the bottom and the spanker's relative position is designed to put that bottom at a convenient angle and height. Therefore, the spanker is able completely to view, tweak, pat, and spank it.

Safety: Because the spanker is in the position to easily spank the rear-end at the correct angle, it is much less likely that a blow will fall too high or too low.

Control: The spanker's position gives him or her the "upper hand" and allows

... there are few times that someone looks more adorable ... than when ... positioned to be spanked.

easy control of the spankee. The spanker sits or stands higher than the spankee and is easily able to restrain and situate the spankee.

The spankee realizes the following effects from this position:

Relative comfort: Except for the backside, it's important that the spankee be relatively comfortable so the focus can be on the sensations being inflicted upon the posterior.

Anticipation: Bending over and getting into position to get your bottom blis-



John Wayne & Maureen O'Hara in *McLintock*

tered signals the beginning of the spanking and builds anticipation.

Increased Sensation: A properly positioned bottom will tend to be spanked harder and more completely on the sensitive "sit spot".

Humiliation: Being put over the knee is a childish, humiliating posture. Having to "assume the position" is humiliating in its submission and rubs in the fact that they are being spanked.

Exposure: A properly positioned bottom is fully exposed. The cheeks are fully presented and split; the undersides turned up. In men, the anus and back of scrotum show. Women are even more exposed; their rectums and vulvas fully visible.

Emphasis on the butt: Spanking positions place the center of attention on the bottom of the person being spanked, a fact not lost on said person. The bottom is emphasized by its exposure and upturned position relative to the spanker.

Presentation of the bottom: Not only is the bottom exposed and emphasized but the spankee is willingly "sticking it out" and presenting it for its punishment in the same way as the condemned man who must place his head on the chopping block. The spankee knows the swats cannot be evaded.

Submission: Cooperatively getting into position to be spanked is the primary act of submission in spanking.

Safety: Although it may be of little solace, the spankee can take comfort in the fact that the position affords safety from injury. Of course, this can be disconcerting if they know they will be spanked with even more abandon.

Loss of control: Once positioned, the spankees have relinquished control and may not easily regain it until the spanking is done. They may have difficulty removing their rears from the line of fire if they try.

Inability to clench: When standing, one can clench the cheeks together, mitigating the sting of a swat and the exposure. When properly positioned, it is more difficult to clench cheeks and the spanking will be applied to a relaxed, bouncing bottom.

Excellent visual presentation: From the point of view of an admitted bottom fancier, there are a few times that someone looks more adorable and beautiful than when he or she is positioned to be spanked. Not only is the bottom emphasized, but it is formed to a flattering shape. Spanking positions would be sexy even to people not into spanking.

Following are descriptions of various positions that I find erotic, their distinguishing characteristics, tactics that can be used to enhance them, and precautions to take. All descriptions assume a right-handed spanker.

Over the lap: Spanker is sitting with good posture on an armless chair, knees together. The person being spanked must lay face-down across the spanker's lap, head to the left and feet to the right. The spankee must be over the lap far enough so the bottom is conveniently located directly over the spanker's right thigh. In order to preserve modesty, the person being spanked may be tempted to lie flat with the head up and legs straight out behind; however, if there is concern for modesty, they shouldn't have gotten themselves spanked in the first place.

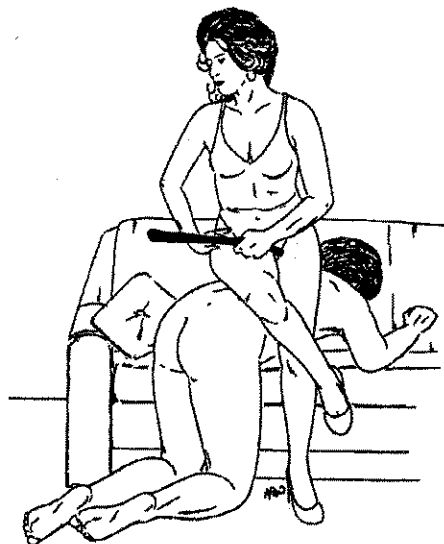
The spankee's head and shoulders should be angled down and knees tucked down out of the way so that the bottom is well turned up. A palm pressed against the back of the head and swats to the thighs are helpful in positioning the spankee. Knees should be at least six inches apart and the lower back should be "arched" or dipped to further turn up the butt. For a woman, this will

result in her vulva being fully exposed and presented. Depending on size, toes will either be resting against the floor or hoisted off a few inches. The full weight of the spankee should be resting on the lap. Hands can either be on the floor or grasping the legs of the chair. If the right hand flies back during spanking, it should be pinned to the lower back by the spanker's left hand.

Prior to starting to spank, the spanker should firmly grasp the spankee's waist above the right hip with the left hand to prevent squirming off the lap. Then the left elbow should be planted between the shoulder blades to keep the head and shoulders from bobbing up. The spanker should raise the right knee slightly, turning up the bottom further. In the case of a woman spanking a man, she should make sure his penis is pressed firmly against her right thigh and aimed to the left. By turning his upper body to the right, the spanker can get a fuller swing and more comfortably apply a stronger swat. By combining all of these tactics - the raised knee, the elbow in the back, the hand in the small of the back - the spanker can effectively pin spankees down and spank the daylights out of them.

Over the knee: Similar to over-the-lap except the spankee is bent over the left knee with the legs restrained by the spanker's right leg.

Hands on ankles: This is the classic



school-style paddling position. The student must stand well clear of obstacles with feet shoulder width apart. Leaving knees straight and back straight, the student must bend over and grasp the ankles with both hands. The spanker may want to observe the student's hands throughout the paddling to ensure they do not leave the ankles and earn extra swats. The spanker stands facing the left side of the student. He should stand far enough away so the paddle barely overlaps past the right cheek. Fore and aft adjustment may be necessary to ensure that both cheeks are struck at the same time. (This assumes a paddle is being used. Canes and straps warrant slightly forward positioning.) It is not

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possible to more fully expose and present a rear end than when in this position. When one is told to bend over and grab one's ankles, one is, in effect, being told, "we intend to thoroughly paddle your bottom. So not only will you present your rear-end but you will stretch and endeavor to stick it up and out as far as you can absolutely, positively can. And throughout the paddling, you will continue to strain to stick it out for the paddle." Since the angle between the legs and the upper body is well under 90 degrees, this position spreads the cheeks and exposes the rectum and genitals more than any other position.

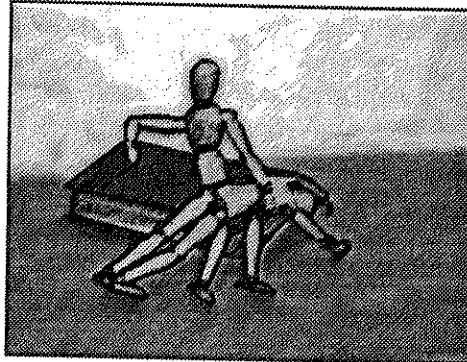
This is a great fantasy position but I think it only works safely in reality for spankees with flexible bodies (especially when a thick paddle is used). Inflexible people can't reach their ankles without bending their knees. Men run the risk of getting their testicles whacked. Non-fleshy butts get pulled tightly across the pelvic bones and don't provide enough padding when a heavy paddle is used.

Hands on knees: A safer, more workable position than hands-on-ankles. The bottom is presented in a plumper, more paddle-friendly shape but visually, the position is still very school-like.

Depending on the person, I think this position can be more visually appealing because the back can be arched a bit which perks up the bottom. In fact, the further up the legs the hands are placed, the more the spankee can arch the back and stick out the rump. Again, feet should be shoulder width apart and hand position enforced. Because the back can be arched and bottom upturned, it should be required, both prior and during the paddling. A technique which tends to arch the back correctly is to require the student to look forward at a spot high on the wall. That requires the head to pull up and the back to arch.

Over the desk on tiptoes: Another school-like position. The student must bend over a desk with nose or chest pressed to the desk. Hands and arms should be placed on the desk over the head to further arch the back. To further elevate the bottom requires raising up on the toes. Penalty swats can be awarded for every incidence of a heel touching the floor (Hint: watch after the "last" swat before the student is told to relax).

Over a bar stool or horse: This is probably the best position for paddling



because the bottom is presented in a plump and relaxed manner. The person to be punished must lay full weight across the stool, the feet hanging and hands grasping the legs of the stool at a level such that there is a little support for the upper body. This is a relaxed, comfortable position which works well for lengthy spankings.

Laying on bed: Another comfortable position for lengthy spankings and ensuing diversions. The spankee must lay face-down on a bed. The face should be pressed to the mattress while the hips and bottom are elevated on pillows. Since pillows are compressible, it may take three or four to achieve the proper elevation.

Kneeling in chair: One of my favorite positions for spankees with great butts because, properly executed, it presents the rear in its most flattering light. The

(continued on page 29)

Clues

from *The Guardians*

We feature the perennial favorite, "the over the knee/over the lap spanking." For many it is the first venture into using impact as a means of erotic sensation, sometimes but not always accompanied by a punishment or other role-playing scenario.

Videos, and even mainstream movies, show the spankee balanced over the lap of the spanker. It all looks so easy -- in the movies! In real life, the effort expended to maintain the position sometimes takes away from the experience, rather than adding to it. And, if the Top is half the size and weight of the Bottom, it can really be more punishment for the spanker than the spankee!

One solution is to choose a larger area than a chair or stool to sit on. For instance, the Top can get comfortable in the center of a sofa which is long enough (or almost) for the Bottom to stretch out across the Top's lap. Then the weight is at least partially transferred to the furniture from the knees. The Bottom can maintain the position more easily and concentrate on where the intended sensation (pain?) is coming from and not be distracted by extraneous discomfort.

There are those who will argue that the precariousness of the over the knee position on a chair with the Bottom balancing on hands and tip-toes adds to the scene. This is true.

Different strokes for different folks?

Why not!

Bed and Dungeon Getaways

by Gerrie Blum

The term "B&D" has taken on a new meaning: "Bed and Dungeon."

As more and more "stay at home, play at home" couples want to find ways of furthering their exploration of the SM lovestyle, the idea of having a place with the proper equipment and furniture becomes more attractive. Now you can check in for the weekend, don your regalia, and your roles, and be immersed in a d&s atmosphere to your hearts' content.

In New York City there are clubs open to the public where SM people can go to socialize and play. In most other major cities, these parties are hosted by organizations or groups formed for the purpose. However, these places address only one aspect of the scene. It has been our observation as makers of SM gear, that the majority of men and women, (partnered or not), are not of a mind to frequent a public place to play. Oh, they might one day consider one of the conventions or conferences that are held in one part of the country or another at various times during the year, but the rest of the time they are pretty private about this aspect of their lives. "It's just another form of sexual expression," as was told to us by a viewer of the HBO feature that we did some time ago, and as such does not need public display to validate it. The "whips and chains" are just some toys that they have added to their repertoire. No big deal!

Now, just like the folks in Exit to Eden who signed on for a trip (remember Rosie O'Donnell's "guard boy" who was a CEO on his annual one-week vacation?), having a bed and dungeon that you can go to on a "special occasion" (or on no occasion at all) and play out a fantasy seems like a real neat thing to do. And having the innkeepers aware and cooperative in this is an added plus.

House of Differences™ in California and **The Country House** in upstate New York have each come up with an idea for providing an SM getaway weekend for couples.

At the House of Differences, you can have the services, counselling or participation of Elizabeth, the Mistress of the house for a preset Curriculum and schedule of fees. There are Introductory and Intermediate Sessions of 2-3 hours for couples or singles, "Practice Labs" of 2-3 hours for couples or singles, as well as Salons and Parties. The playspace is also available on a rental basis for 2-20 players.

For couples that want just an S/M hideaway, the Mistress' chamber is a private apartment with private play space and the main dungeon one floor below. The chamber has a living room, small kitchen, private bath and loft bedroom with all the

amenities. Overnight accommodations are available — nightly, weekend, or for a full week.

At **The Country House**, they provide a more traditional, relaxed country bed and breakfast atmosphere. The overnight rate includes a guest room, breakfast, unlimited use of the dungeon and the living-room space which is shared with Madam Sang and Master R, the "innkeepers" who are also available for professional training and guidance for an additional fee.

The Country House accents the sensual dining experience, complete with exotic main dishes such as pheasant or antelope, with wild mushrooms and exotic sauces. Having dinner with the slave preparing and serving or at the feet of the dominant is encouraged. They will arrange your gourmet dinner at the House, or you can venture out to one of the many restaurants in the area. (Of course, there the slave will have to sit at the table.)

The House of Differences (415) 585-9662

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Adventures in Nine Point: *How to Handle the Personal Ad Odyssey*

Part One

by the Ad-Viser

You've figured out ways to alter your bedroom, your kitchen, your crawlspace for all sorts of mysterious erotic purposes, you've gotten some toys in a box and some clothes in the closet, and you've either practiced your kneeling or your whip tossing until you can match talents with the best of 'em. But the rewind and slow motion buttons on your VCR are worn down by constant use, you've broken the spines of your favorite erotic novels, and those phone sex lines are beginning to know your voice: *It's time to go out and find someone new.* And this time, you want someone who might be interested in doing SM with you if the chemistry is right — not someone who you have to work into a relationship first and then break the news to them later.

But there are just so many cities with SM organizations, and just so many kinds of people who want to join organizations to begin with. Even if you lived in a city with one or two public groups, you want a potential partner, not a statement of purpose. *It's time to hit the personal ads.*

It's a tough dating scene out there, and it gets worse when you have a special interest. You can go to a million singles events, dances, tours, outings, bar nights - and you can sign up for services and matchmakers and even go on a blind date or two, if you have nice friends. But if the prospect of romancing someone for several days/weeks/months/years and then coming out to them as a kinky sort of person doesn't appeal to you, maybe you'd better put it all out there from the start. That's what personal ads are best at doing. The columns of thousands of papers await you, along with magazines, newsletters, and of course - the Internet. Here's a basic guide to strategies which might give you an edge while on the paper trail of love.

Location, location, location

The first thing to do is pick your venue. The most logical choice is an SM/leather/fetish magazine, newspaper, newsletter or other "scene" publication. The best thing about those venues is that you don't have to be coy in your ad. If you want it to read, "Sadist seeks masochist for torments, tortures and long walks on the beach in the moonlight," you

might get a slight sneer of derision when the staff opens the envelope — but your ad will be there big and bold and inviting to all who find that sort of thing interesting.

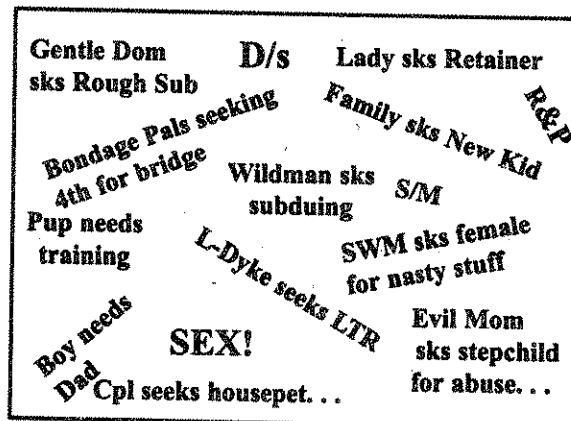
The second best feature is that you have your target audience right there. You can be guaranteed that almost everyone who picks up that paper and reads the ads is a fellow pervert, seeking same. (The remainder are horrified mates/parents/roomies and a handful of right-wing extremists who are safeguarding their liberties by keeping an eye on those shifty pornographers.) Now for the drawbacks.

The worst aspect of a scene publication is that the readership is probably skewed — dramatically. You can count on the readership of most fetish publications to be overwhelmingly male, for example. And if you are looking for a man, that's great. Gay male advertising and women seeking men will always get the most responses. But if you're a man seeking a woman partner, you'll be one of a crowd, fighting for the attention of a relatively small population of women. Women seeking women have a slightly better chance, because there are few lesbian publications they can utilize - but that leads to

another inconvenient side of SM advertising venues — their history of publication.

In the past two years, two notable women's magazines, *Venus Infers* and *Brat Attack*, both arrived and went out of business. Both of them were excellent resources, and could have easily had full personals columns in every issue — had they stayed around long enough to get the national distribution they deserved.

The trick with scene publications is to find the ones which have 1) been around the longest, and 2) seem to come out regularly. Pick the one that targets the audience you most want to reach — and start counting words. It always pays to scan a few issues before putting your own ad in. Make sure the venue is going to be read by the people you want to reach. If the glossy, photo-filled magazine has 30 ads from men seeking a mistress (but no pros) — and all the ads from women seem to be from professionals, this will probably not be your best bet. On the other hand, that



newsletter from the "Femdom Forever Society"* has one page of ads from men and women, and will guarantee that each issue is read by people who are interested in women dominating men. That might give you better odds.

When trying to find a small, organization-based publication that will suit your needs, look for 1) a local publication — unless you want a long distance relationship, and 2) a group that matches your tastes, or at least has a sizable membership or readership. If you have to join the organization to take advantage of their personal ads, you might consider thinking of it as an access fee. Who knows, you might want to go to the meetings anyway. Besides, the person you find will also probably be a member, so you'll have neutral safe territory to meet on.

The next possibility is a local alternative paper. While your big city daily tabloid hasn't decided whether the words "gay" and "lesbian" will be permitted in their personal ad pages, the downtown (and usually free) papers are blazing trails with sections like "alternative lifestyles," "whatever's clever," "multiples" and "anything goes."

The best thing about these papers is that they get a lot of very local readers (sometimes limited to one neighborhood, which can be a drawback as well). And the readership is almost guaranteed to be more, well, tolerant of differences. They certainly won't mind the "Foot kisser seeks Cinderella for ballroom dancing" ads.

However, the readership is also more likely to be on the rather young side, (Gen-Xers) into modern, alternative music, clubs, and slacker-prose, and intense coffee drinkers. While I don't see this as a problem, if you're looking for a 50-ish daddy type who won't mind the fact that you've got two 20-something kids yourself, you probably won't find him - or her - in those pages. But you never know.

Alternative newspapers run the gamut from free advertising slicks to huge, stodgy dinosaurs like New York's venerable *Village Voice*. Pick the one you are most likely to read - that way, your chances of finding someone like you increase.

Last, and least — are the mainstream publications. Reading the endless lines of "Romantic swm seeks creative swf for candlelit dinners and foreign films," and "SJF seeks SJM, 30-50 — are you my one and only?," and the getting VERY old, "Desperately seeking. . .," you'd wonder why someone would bother trying to put anything kinky in there. And certainly, many of these venues will not allow blatant ads that suggest anything more than dinner, walking, and music. But if you're creative, you can find a way to break into the format and still get your message across. The trouble is — who will read it? A vast audience, to be sure — with a pervert potential roughly the same as the percent-

age of perts in the broad spectrum of society. But again, you never know. If you absolutely must have someone who reads that highbrow literary magazine, at least you can be clever and try to weed out the clueless.

Many personal columns no longer offer writing to a box number. That's a shame. Writing used to be one excellent way of weeding through the nutcases and weirdos. Now, many services include a call-in voice mail service, where first you place the print ad, then you record a welcome message. Persons responding to the ad call a toll number, and pay to record a reply to your ad. In most of these services, you do not have to pay to retrieve the responses — but some of them charge everyone to call in. Watch your minutes as you talk — or listen. They can add up pretty fast.

Gotta Have a Gimmick

OK, you've done your research, and you've determined the best places to put your ad. Now, you have to actually write it. This is where many people will screw up. Remember — you're not only trying to advertise yourself, you're trying to attract someone who you're going to like. To do both at the same time depends on a sense of balance.

(*Not a real organizational name. At least, not as far as I know.)

(continued on page 42)

Px3

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TOYS FOR THE CURIOUS-MINDED

Discreet Dungeons: Securing Tie Points

by Conrad Hodson

You can't have too many strong tie points in the walls, ceiling or floor. One of the nicest play-rooms I remember had the walls and ceiling studded with about thirty of them. The room was small but several players could use it and do almost anything there. Furniture could be moved in as necessary, because the tie points took up no space worth mentioning. Even empty, a room like this replaces a St. Andrews Cross, a big frame-around-the-bed, and several other major bondage items.

This is a fine way to set up a dungeon, but might make your living room look funny. If installed on a more limited scale, however, none of this hardware has to be obvious. Should you eventually move, patching a bolt hole in plaster or wallboard is generally a simple matter of spackle and paint.

Hanging a potted plant from a big ring in the ceiling is cause for many a joke among players, but hardly anyone else will think twice about it. Other players *are* likely to notice it; you might make some new friends! The kind of lamps that hang from a chain are another perfect excuse for a ceiling eye.

An eyescrew is easily overlooked in a high ceiling. This is especially true if the screw can be set into the shadowed side of an exposed beam, or vent aperture, or whatever. A few dabs of paint, camouflage style, in colors to match the surroundings, will cover the shine and break up the outline and no one but you will ever notice the thing.

If you have a light fixture in the middle of the ceiling, it may be possible to hide an eyescrew with an ordinary lampshade. Such a light fixture almost always hangs from a junction box set into the ceiling.

Clues from the Guardians:

Before messing with any areas where electricity is conducted - like junction boxes - make sure that the lights are turned off and the electrical feed to that area is halted. Turn off the circuit breaker, or remove the fuse, or use the cut-off switch for that room or area of the house.

Remove the lampshade, undo the fixture with a screwdriver, and pull down gently. You will see the box, embedded in the ceiling. (See Fig 1) This contains and protects the wiring connections (the lamp is now hanging from them) and is the anchor point for the light fixture, too. Shine a flashlight into the box; it is generally nailed to the side of one of the ceiling beams.

Sometimes the nailheads inside the box show you which side the support beam is on. Other times you will have to look for wood showing through a hole, or probe past the wires into the void beyond until you can feel the wood. Once you know, try a test hole where the center of the beam should be -- generally about 3/4" over from the side you just located. Now, if you *drill the proper lead hole*, you can set a big eyescrew into the beam a few inches from the light fixture. Put the fixture back, tucking the wires carefully, and replace the lampshade. When you need an overhead tie point, it only takes a few seconds to take the shade off again.

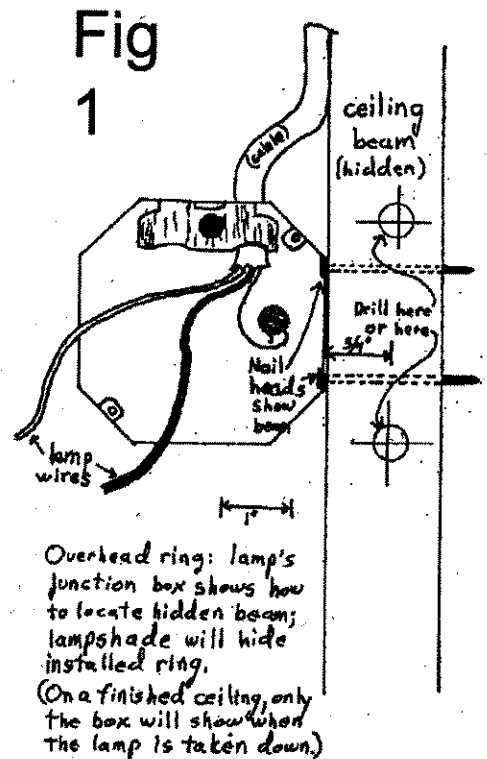
For tie points on the walls, consider setting eyescrews at appropriate heights and hanging pictures from them. It

only takes a moment to uncover them as you prepare for play.

Take a look at any house under construction. The windows are usually framed in with two or three studs side by side, making a mass of solid wood three- to five- inches thick along each side of the window. In a furnished house, heavy drapes will cover this position exactly. If you install such drapes, you can have a whole row of eyescrews set very solidly down each side of any window you wish!

NOTES ON HARDWARE

These are technical notes for readers who may not be hardware junkies-those of you who know already, please bear with me. There are two basic kinds of hardware that give us a ring to tie people to: *eyebolts* and *eyescrews*. Both have a ring at one end and threads at the other. The threaded end of an eyebolt is cut off flat, and the threads are fine and V-shaped, to take a nut. Eyescrews have a



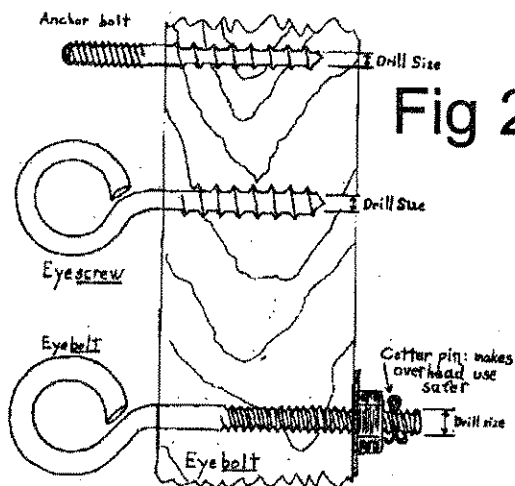


Fig 2

pointy end, and threads like a big wood screw. (See Fig 2.)

There are also *hooks* with these threads, in the same sizes. Generally, they are risky for our kind of play. Hooks are fine for loads that stay still; for things that move around closed rings are generally safer.

Eyebolts are used when you have access to the other side of the beam or wall or whatever the bolt goes through. Obviously, they have to be long enough to go all the way through, or you won't be able to put a nut on them, and the nut needs to be in a place where it is reachable but not in the way. This may be true for you if there is an attic or crawl space above the ceiling or behind the wall.

An important safety note: I have been horrified to see homes where a cherished play partner was held by hooks or eyes that I wouldn't trust to hold a large painting! In the nature of things, any bondage tie point in a ceiling or even just high on a wall will sooner or later be hit with a person's full weight or even more. "Shock loading" — a sudden jerk — can apply more force than "static loading" — a person's weight on the bathroom scales. I never use a new overhead tie point without testing it with my full weight; if another person is available, get them on it with you! (The simplest way to do this is to tie loops of

heavy rope through the eye and stand in them. If you're on the small side, get a couple of husky friends to help with this one.) Watch the eye, and the wall or ceiling around it, carefully as the strain comes on. If it feels solid under two large people's weight, if the surface doesn't bulge or deform, it's trustworthy.

When shopping for eyebolts and eyescrews, think big! Small ones overhead are just plain dangerous; small ones at floor level will merely bend open or rip out and make a mess of the woodwork. Don't even consider an eye you can't stick your finger through—your thumb is better. The metal rod it's made of should be at least 3/8" thick for an overhead eyebolt that goes clear through a stout piece of wood (2x4 or better) and is held by a nut and a good big washer on the far side. For overhead eyescrews, 1/2" is much better, and try to get at least three inches of threads into the wood.

While at the hardware store, you may also need to buy one or two drill bits. *Eyebolts* need a drill the size of their own threaded shank, or a little larger. (I like a drill 1/64" larger than the bolt; 25/64" for an eyebolt made of 3/8" rod stock. This makes it easy to push the bolt through the hole without being too sloppy.) *Eyescrews*, on the other hand, need a smaller hole. (See Fig 2 again)

An eyescrew's threads must bite deeply into the wood; those threads' grip will be holding the entire load you put on the tie point. However, if your lead hole is too small, the solid core of the screw will split the wood, weakening the grip in another way and perhaps cracking the plaster as well. To get it right, lay various drill bits along the threaded part of the eyescrew until you find one that is the same diameter or just a little smaller than the *solid core* of the

(continued on page 35)

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Passion

Janette
Heartwood's

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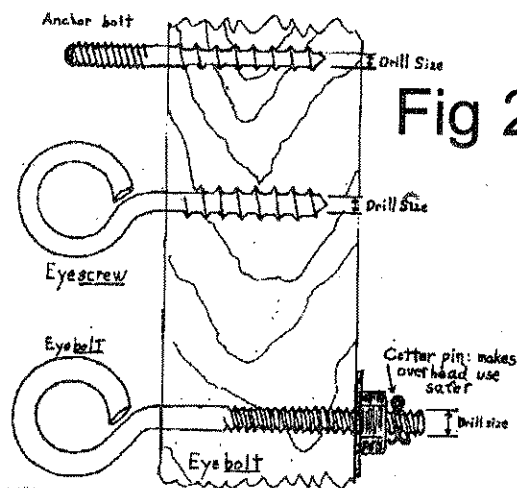


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models that can help us to define our relationships. For some people, the process of creating a contract with their partner gives them the opportunity to discuss and analyze the relationship, and so come to understand it and perhaps create labels for it. The task of creating a document can give some structure to all that "communication" we're supposed to be doing, and make it work more smoothly. Often, the understanding that the process engenders is far more valuable than the resulting document.

As a practical document stating the rules, guidelines, and parameters of a relationship. This is closest to the traditional, non-SM use of the term "contract". A well-designed practical service contract can serve to facilitate communication between dominant and submissive, and to help set the expectation of both parties in such a way as to promote mutual understanding and agreement.

As a guarantee: This is another thing that novices often seem to be seeking from a contract: a guarantee of some sort that the relationship is real, and will endure. Unfortunately, no contract can ensure this. As the examples above show, a contract can be just about anything you want it to be, but it can never be a legally binding document, and it can never be a guarantee of lasting commitment. Until such time (if ever) that our relationships have legal recognition, our word is our only bond. If you find this disappointing, take a look at the divorce statistics, and consider whether a legal bond and a piece of paper do that much to strengthen a commitment.

HOW TO WRITE A CONTRACT

In writing a contract, the rule of "form follows function" is paramount. Because a contract is not a legal document, here are no restrictions on the form it can take. But what form *should* it take, in order to serve you well? That depends on what you want it to do. If you're writing a fantasy document, or an announcement or declaration, then the sky's the limit. If, on the other hand, you want to use a contract for another purpose — especially if it is to serve as an agreement regulating conduct — then there are some do's and don'ts that may help you to produce a more functional document, and use it to best effect.

Don't play "bigger is better." Don't use what other people do — or what you read in works of fiction — as a standard for what you should do. For example, don't attempt to regulate every aspect of your submissive's life in order to feel that you have a "real" d/s relationship. That level of control may be your ultimate dream, but it's not realistic as starting point for a relationship, particularly if you haven't tried this level of control for short periods of time, and both of you aren't quite sure that you'd like it as a day-to-day reality (as opposed to a hot fantasy).

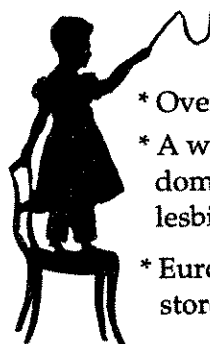
Don't be afraid to set limits of other sorts. If you, as a dominant, don't want to hold the purse-strings, then don't sign up for it. If you, as a submissive, don't want to be pierced or tattooed, then say so ... and never mind what anybody else does (or says they do). Remember as well that works of fiction don't take mundane considerations into account when describing the lives of submissives (and for that matter, details such as going to work or picking the kids up at daycare are often missing even from so-called "real life" accounts). If you find yourself tempted to set up a relationship just like your favorite piece of fiction, just reread it and insert some passages of your own in between the paragraphs:

("...and then the flogging had to stop because the baby was crying ... Mistress Ann was not wakened in her customary fashion on Tuesday because Alicia had a seven AM breakfast meeting at work ...").

That should inject a suitable dose of reality.

Watch out for "New Year's Resolution" syndrome. It's very common to list goals in a contract. Some people take this to an extreme, however, and create contracts full of goals that are mostly wishful thinking, and not practical objectives. Like a list of overambitious New Year's resolutions that stand little chance of ever being accomplished ("I will work out every day,

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I will write a novel ..."), these goals do not somehow become more attainable simply by virtue of being set down on paper. Whether the promises are made to oneself or to one's partner makes no difference: unrealistic goals are just that. The failure to meet them creates stress, and causes both parties to take commitments less seriously in the future. Promises are made lightly, taken lightly, and broken lightly. Instead, choose realistic goals, and a realistic structure. A modest goal that is actually reached is more impressive than an ambitious goal that is never attained.

Consider setting a time limit. Setting a time limit on a contract doesn't make it any less real, or you any less committed. It's perfectly sensible, particularly if you're a novice or entering into a new relationship. Agreeing to be bound to someone forever, upon entering into a relationship with them, isn't commitment — it's either a manifestation of "bigger is better" syndrome, or a wish to give or extract guarantees that can't honestly be made. The divorce courts are full of people who once said "forever" when they should have waited — people who had the sanction and support of government, social, and religious institutions in creating and maintaining their unions. When you make your commitment, consider for yourself whether you'd rather succeed at a year — and then go on succeeding, one year (or month, or week) at a time — or to fail at "forever".

Don't exploit loopholes. When dealing with a legal business contract, there are times — usually when continued goodwill is not necessary — when exploiting loopholes will benefit one of the parties, providing financial or other gain. In a consensual service contract, however, it will most often lead to grief for all concerned. If a dominant has agreed not to spank her submissive, it's not entirely honest for her to administer a paddling and claim that it's within the terms of the contract — not if she understands that the submissive would be affected by the paddling in the same way that she would be by a spanking. Likewise, if a submissive has agreed to go to the gym every day, it's not honest to drive to the gym every day, and then turn around and come back without exercising. In either case, the spirit of the contract has been violated, and trust with it.

If temptations to exploit loopholes arise, perhaps it will help to remember why the contract exists: not just to serve as a list of rules, but to promote understanding of each other's needs and expectations. It goes directly against such a purpose to play dumb and pretend that you do not understand what your partner really intends or expects.

Don't try to make it airtight. This is the flip side of looking for loopholes. Sometimes, in order to eliminate all loopholes and ambiguities, partners draft a very detailed and elaborate contract. The problem with this approach is that loopholes can never be eliminated entirely. The contract becomes more elaborate, more cumbersome and harder to understand ... and sometimes, all the focus on loopholes leads the partners to

reflexively try to find them (and perhaps exploit them). Again, the reason for the contract has been forgotten, and instead what you have is a cleverness contest. Rather than play that game, simply act in good faith. An airtight contract — even if such a thing were possible — will not save a relationship where good faith is not present.

Keep your language simple. Try to avoid both legalese ("The party of the first part, hereinafter known as...") and archaic language. In a fantasy document, you may want to use language that is archaic or formal, but in a practical document, it is more likely to obscure than to illuminate. Mutual understanding is paramount here, and the document will serve you better if you go easy on the whereases and now-be-it-knowns, and concentrate on getting your point across simply and unambiguously.

Be concise. There is no need to write two separate documents if one is essentially a reciprocation of the other ("The dominant has the right to punish the submissive for any disobedience" and "The submissive agrees to accept punishment for any disobedience").

Don't be afraid to change things. Many people regard a contract as sacred. "Sacred", however, does not mean "carved in stone". Particularly if your contract isn't for a limited term, it is important to allow some mechanism for changes, which should be approved by both parties. Also, remember that if you are setting realistic goals, every now and then you will want to review your contract to see what you have accomplished, and what new things you want to take on. A contract doesn't just show you where you are or where you're going — it also shows you where you've been.

Write your own. Many people want examples of other contracts to use in drafting their own. While it can be interesting and sometimes informative to look at other contracts, it can be misleading as well. Few contracts are annotated, and the reason behind a particular clause may not be obvious. Because each d/s relationship is unique, it is not wise to assume that someone else's contract — in whole or in part — will work for you. If you can talk to the authors about their document and get some insight into the reasons behind it, that is more likely to be helpful.

A great deal more could be said about SM contracts. As the article illustrates, however, just about everything that goes into the making of a slave contract is a matter of simple common sense. Trust your own judgement, and write the contract that will suit you. But before you start to write, there is one final (and most important) piece of advice, one more thing to consider:

You don't need a contract in order to have a strong, fun, fulfilling, and lasting relationship. You don't need a contract for it to be *real*.

**"Sacred ...
does not
mean 'carved
in stone.'"**

Build Your Own PORTABLE SPANKING BENCH

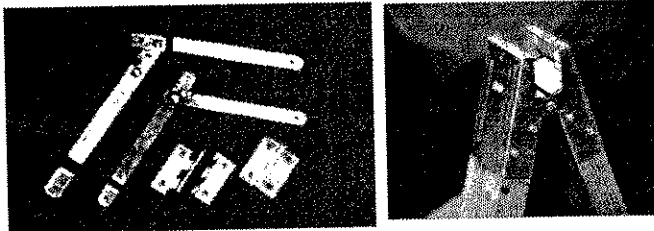
by *Mitch Kessler*
and *Justinian Sluggard*

Any spanking bench is essentially, a sturdy narrow table, which imagination can transform into any number of exotic pleasure/punishment locations such as the breech of a cannon, a rail fence, or a piece of gymnasium equipment.

This is a Spanking Bench design that:

- Is reassuringly solid and unmoving
- Can be stored and transported in a large laundry bag
- Assembles and Disassembles in a few minutes without the use of tools.
- Can be built quickly and cheaply, without special tools, or skills.
- Can be easily modified to suite individual tastes.

The basic bench is actually just a saw-horse with a padded top. Construction is simplified by using SAWHORSE BRACKETS and SHELF SUPPORT BRACKETS, which eliminate the need for precise angle cutting and fancy joinery.



All that is required is:

- 1 pr METAL SAW HORSE BRACKETS
- 4 ea WOOD LEGS: 2x4 x 28" long
- 1 ea BENCH SUPPORT 2x4 x 30" long
- 1 ea BENCH TOP 3/4 plywood 36" x 14"
- 1 doz #10x2" slotted round head wood screws
OR 10d (ten penny) common nails
- 2 doz #6 x 3/4 slotted round head wood screws
- 4 oz. "White" Wood Glue
- misc. washers

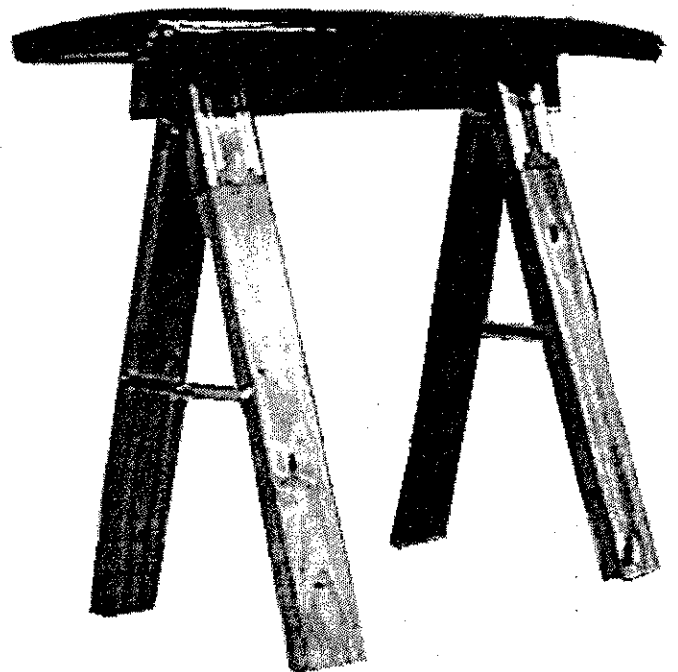
- 1ea 1x4 x 30" CROSS BRACE
- 4 ea 1/4-20 x 3 1/4 Eye Bolts
- 4 ea 1/4-20 Wing Nuts
- 8 ea 1/4" Fender Washers 2" dia
- 1 pr shelf support brackets

- 4ea #6 x 1" Round Head Wood Screws
- 4 ea washers for above

- 2 ea 1x4x36" ANTI-TIP BRACE
- 2 ea 2 1/2" Flat Hinges
- 2 ea 6d Finishing Nails (for "loose pins")
- 8 ea #6 x 1/2 Wood Screws

Everything here can be found at almost any Lumber Yard or "Home Center." The better variety of sawhorse brackets cost in the neighborhood of \$7.00 a pair. The BEST, heavy duty metal brackets can be as much as \$15/pr. If you are pinching pennies, the medium duty brackets are acceptable, but avoid the light-duty ones costing under \$5.00/pr.

The only critical requirement is that the four legs be *exactly* the same length, give or take 1/16". If your saw or your skills aren't up to such precise cutting, tell the lumberyard clerk you need cutting service before you buy. A surprising number of yards will accommodate you for the sake of goodwill, or for a small cutting fee. You probably don't want to do business with a yard that flat-out refuses to accommodate you, anyway. By the same token you will want to cultivate your relationship with the yard that does offer extra service. Offering a \$5 tip to the stock puller who actually cuts your lumber can pay rich dividends in help and cooperation in the future, even if the tip is refused. Take the "drop offs" (scrap) with you ... you'll need them, too.



Build Your Own PORTABLE SPANKING BENCH

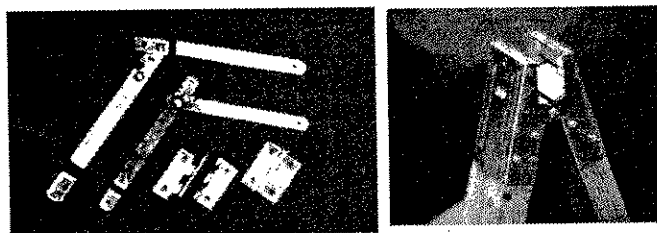
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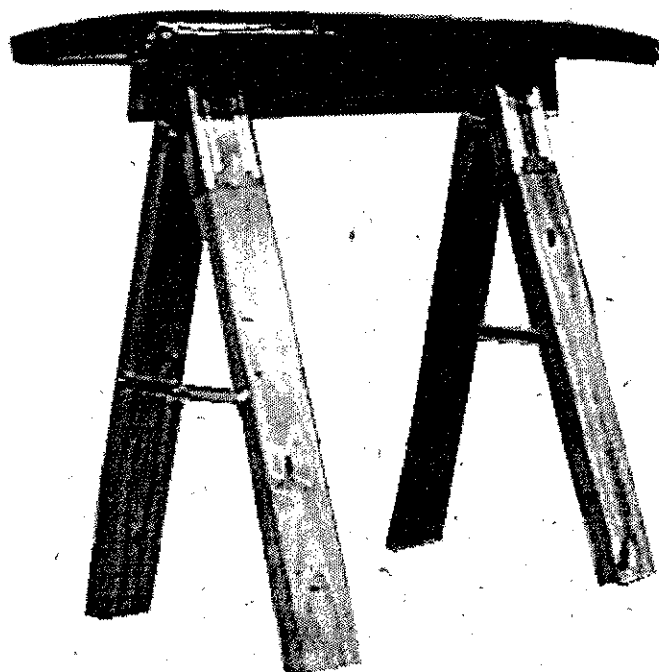
All that is required is:

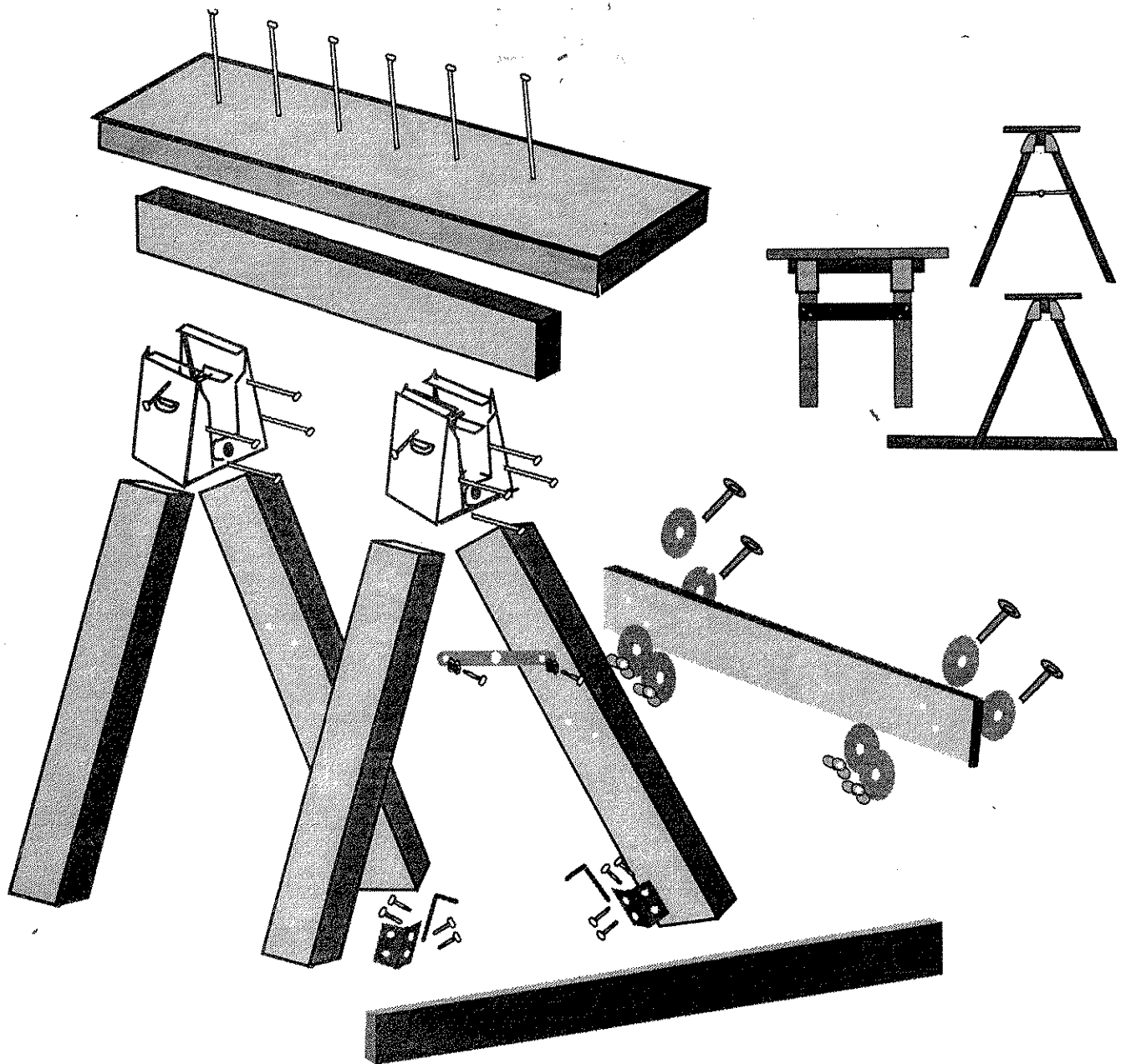
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- 1 ea BENCH TOP 3/4 plywood 36" x 14"
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Now you have a basic, light duty spanking bench that sets up in less than a minute and stores behind a door. The fast and easy way to set up is to put the bench top on the floor, then position each pair of legs, spreading the legs and locking the braces. Disassembly is just the reverse.

It can be used "as is," but can be improved with just a bit more effort.



With time, the teeth will chew away at the bench top's 2x4 and the bench begins to shake from side to side.

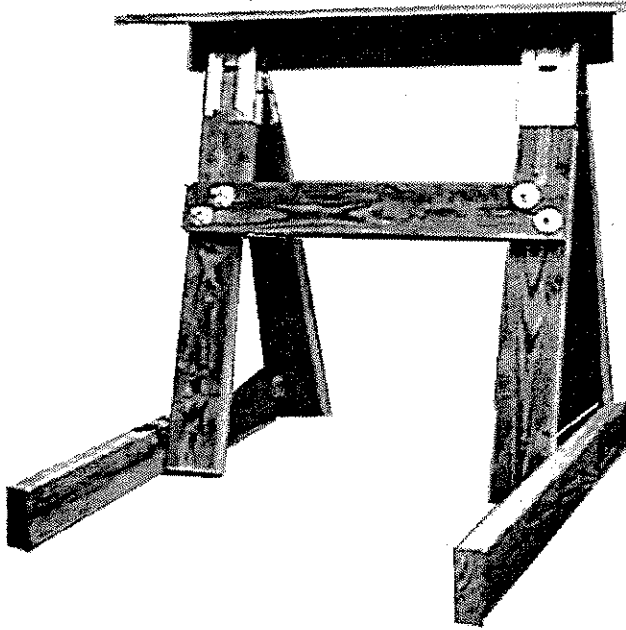
To counter this, bolt a piece of 1x4 stock between two legs. Clamp the board in place and drill two holes at each

end; secure with eyebolts and wing nuts.

This not only eliminates the need for wrenches or screwdrivers when setting up, it also provides a pair of convenient attachment points for cuffs or bindings. The brace can be marked and cut off "flush" or left overhanging the legs a bit



To simplify set up, mark one leg and one side of one end of the brace, so that the holes will always match up on the first



try. The procedure is to set and lock one pair of legs; attach the brace loosely, attach the brace to the second pair of legs, set and lock the second pair, tighten the bolts and set the bench upright.

Now the bench is rock solid side to side, but can still be tipped forward and backward.

To solve that problem a pair of 1x4 outriggers can be added at floor level. This design eliminates the need for the metal shelf brackets to hold the legs open. To speed disassembly, they are attached with LOOSE PIN HINGES.

To install, block the legs open as when attaching the metal shelf brace. Screw one side of the hinge to the brace and one side to the leg.

Remove the factory provided pins from the hinges and replace them with 10d FINISHING NAILS bent to a right angle. This is most easily done by locking the nail in a solidly mounted vice and tapping it with a hammer. Lacking a vice, use 2 pair of pliers. Grip the nail with one, bend it with the other.

Now you have a very solid portable spanking bench ready for final finishing. Common lumber can be stained or painted to suit your taste, and to stabilize the wood. If you use "Pressure Treated" lumber, you can stain it for aesthetic reasons, but no further preservation is needed.

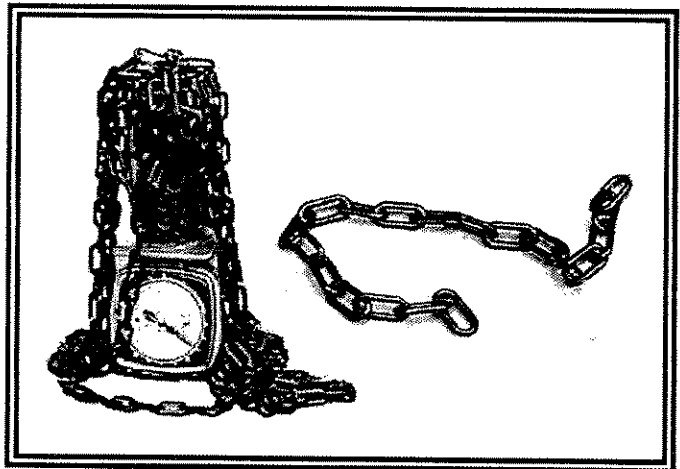
You can equip the bench with attachment points to suit your own style, using either eyescrews or eyebolts. You may have to compromise between having as much hardware as you want, and ease of stacking the component pieces.

In developing this design, our first concern was to make the bench as compact and portable as possible, consistent with it being reassuringly solid. Of equal concern was that anyone should be able to build it in a couple of evenings with a minimum of fuss and mashed fingers.

In our next issue we will show you how this Spanking Bench can be converted to a padded, vertical Flogging Post.

"If you build it, they will come!" Have fun — and if you build yours, write and tell us of your experience, and send us a photo for the Guardian's Gallery.

Tech Bit: Plastic Chain



Many people prefer Chain to Rope for recreational bondage. Chain has powerful fetish associations. It is also easy to work with, using clips, hooks, etc., and can be secured with padlocks. On the other hand, it is cold against the body, is heavy, expensive, and a nuisance to cut.

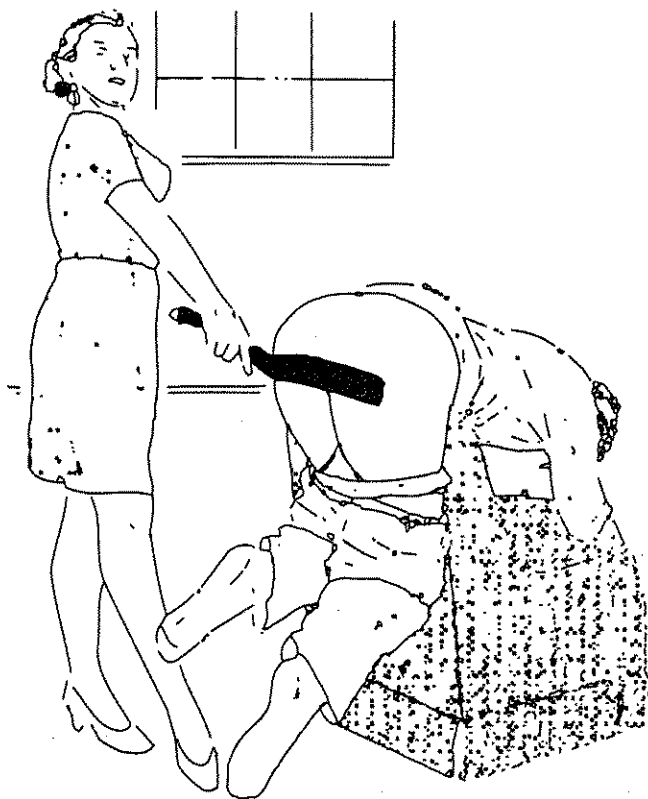
Polyethylene chain sold in garden supply stores offers a possible alternative for some purposes. While utterly unsuitable for suspending heavy weights, it is still remarkably strong for what it is. It is also slightly elastic, so it is able to absorb some dynamic loading, as well. Not many people will be able to break a length of this stuff just by pulling on it.

The samples we tested sustained a static load of 125 lbs.

Best of all, it will not rust — and comes in a choice of colors, including BLACK.

Bottom's Up! *(continued from page 16)*

trick is in the execution. The spankee must kneel in the seat of a padded chair (save those knees) facing the back with the thighs vertical and upper body forward over the back. Again, the spankee should be required to arch the back well. Two things conspire to shape his or her bottom cutely. First, the back of the chair prevents him or her from bending so far as to preclude a good back arch. Second, just as high heels shape calves fully by angling the foot to shorten and bulge the calf muscle, kneeling with the calves at right angles to the thighs seems to allow the buttocks to bulge fully.



I've found the following tactics can be used to enhance and focus on positioning:

Adjustment & readjustment: I think it's important to deliberately position and adjust the spankee prior to the first swat. Emphasis should be placed on positioning and presenting the bottom fully. Throughout the spanking, the spankee should be readjusted as the position begins to fail.

Verbal instruction: I think it's best to require the spankee to willfully maintain the position without the physical assistance of the spanker especially in the case of stand-up paddlings. Therefore, verbal communication is necessary throughout the spanking to encourage the spankee to continue to assume the correct position.

Pickiness: One of the disciplinary aspects of spanking is that no matter how perfect the spankees are positioned, they can always improve, stick their bottoms out a little further, etc.. Spankers should not feel guilty that exacting demands regarding position are perhaps a little too picky and unrealistic.

(Spanking information about Position and Posture from an anonymous USENET posting from the University of Washington/Society for Human Sexuality)

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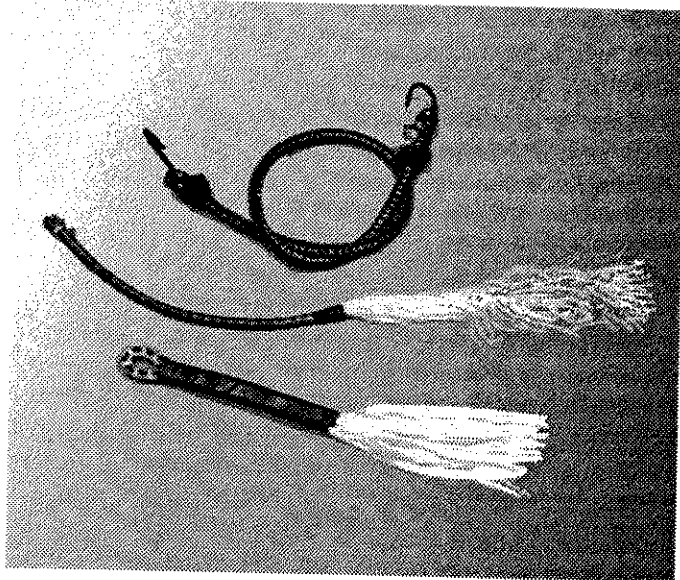
I was standing in front of a sling, my hands ... well-- busy. Like many stylish dungeons, the one I was in didn't have a lot of strong, direct lighting, and frankly, I wanted to see what I was getting into, let's say. So, I called for a flashlight. I figured I could have someone hold it for me.

What came was the handiest dungeon toy I'd come across since velcro — a **Black and Decker Snake Light**. It looked like a black piece of tubing with a futuristic robotic eye on top. But when I draped it around my neck and angled it so that the beam of sharp, white light directly illuminated the area my hand was busy in — yet didn't get in my eyes — or into the eyes of the person I was concentrating on, either — I knew I'd found my next toy bag purchase. (Living near a 24-hour Home Depot made that a reality, too.)

No one who plays in dark, ill-lit or strange places should be without one of these. I found it equally useful in a public SM club and on a camping trip. It stands by itself, it can be wrapped around doorknobs and bedposts and bondage frames, and it's easy to adjust. It weighs no more than a flogger, folds to a compact size, and takes 2 "C" batteries — what more can you ask for? Oh — it was also damn useful for finding the lost popper from the end of an enthusiastically cracked single lash.

The Black and Decker Snake Light- available at hardware stores everywhere. Average price: \$24.95.

For those who are as thrilled by a bargain as they are by a new toy, you get two thrills in one with the **Bungee Whip**.



You'll need a bungee cord — the kind people use to tie down packages (and occasionally bottoms). Sky Renfro gave me this idea, when I revealed that I had gotten three bungee cords as free gifts from a national catalog company, and didn't know what to do with them.

Take one bungee cord — any length, any load bearing, any color. Cut off either one or both ends, and discard the hooks. (Or figure out something to use them for. They look useful!) From one end of the cord, unravel or cut off the outer covering, as far back as you like. The interior of the cord looks like a bundle of slender white rubber strands, some of them still attached to each other, the others frayed apart like Barbie Doll hair. Wrap a piece of tape around the other end, and where you want the unraveling of the cover to stop. Bingo - you have one bungee whip. I like to separate the strands of rubber, but I also hyphenate anal-retentive. They'll come apart in time anyway. You can also double the cord, split both ends open, and tape the doubled-over part, to make a thicker, shorter whip.

The soft rubber tresses are wonderful to use on sensitive areas of the body. They are particularly nice on the nipples and the upper chest area, and people who report not liking being hit on the inside of the thighs like this little fella there. It probably doesn't have enough mass to make an "impression" on any well padded areas - but you can combine two or more bungee cords together for greater "thump." Over all, the Bungee Whip is safe to use, cheap, and a different sensation than your average rubber whip. How cheap? Well, I got six bungee cords at K-Mart for \$2.00.

New Foot Gear for Fashion or Fetishist



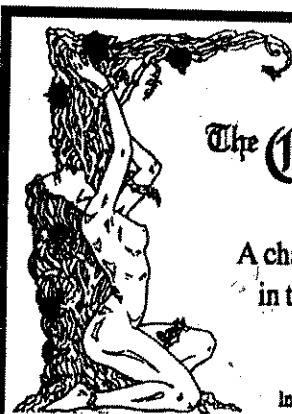
Px3 in Chicago has developed a new concept in scene wear which provides functionality with fashion. The unique High Heel Locks use solid hardware for Tops to secure their subs in their most uncomfortable shoes, with style!

An array of fifteen styles incorporate three colors:

Black, Red and White with a choice of soft garment leather, suede or shiny "wet look" PVC. Golden or nickel plated hardware is used in a variety of ways. The most popular styles in stock include pairs which could adorn the prettiest, most feminine "sissy TV," elegant and sexy styles for the hot-legged woman looking for that extra attention, or the scene-popular black leather/nickel hardware look.

There are three stock sizes, which fit 95% of wearers, men and women. Shoe size or height of heel is not relevant. An ankle measurement assures a proper fit. Special sizing is no problem, nor will it cost more.

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The concept is simple enough: a 2-ply leather shackle is attached above the ball of the ankle with a hasp and U-ring for the lock. Chain is then hung from the shackle and runs under the shoe between the heel and the toe. The chain must be slipped under the shoe while affixing the shackle to the ankle. The result is not enough freedom of movement for the wearer to slip up and out of the shoe. It really does work!. The game begins with who holds the key. Anyone who has worn heels for a period of time can attest to the mental and corporal punishment that can be inflicted with time.

Patty and Mike, who are Px3, also offer matching collars and cuffs to complete a 5-piece accessory set. "Clients like to use the different colors and styles to accent their fantasy clothing. Many a style or texture was born to match a pair of shoes or outfit, while outfits just *had* to be bought to finish a complete costume," according to Mike.

"Whatever your desires," says Patty, "we love to work on concepts and ideas with scene-oriented people. Your imagination is the only boundary."

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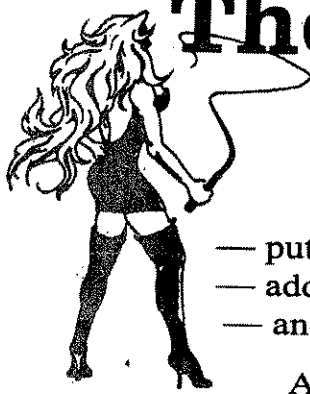
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The Payne, The Pain!

by Lady Gillian

Take four attractive young women — put them in black leather — add a whip, pair of cuffs — and what do you have?

A haircutting salon!

This summer, a new shop opened in the New York area — *Payne's Haircutting* in Long Island City, Queens. The owners have a new slant on the bondage issues surrounding being in the hands of a woman with a sharp instrument in her hand while being handcuffed to a chair.

Sir Adam brought his "manservant" Stephen for a haircut — and the full treatment. It began with Stephen being cuffed to the shampoo chair, washed, rinsed, conditioned and massaged by Mistress Payne while her partner, Mistress Minerva, saw to it that he "behaved" by reminding him with the occasional *thwack* of the whip across his lap.

Then it was on to the cutting chair, strapped in and getting his all-over trim. "It was lovely to look in the mirror and see her body draped along mine and holding my head, with a clipper running over my neck," said the cuttee.

Mistress Minerva is a professional, licensed cosmetologist who has been in the business for several years. "I had a client in my Manhattan shop who wanted me to hurt him while cutting his hair. I refused. But I also understood the dynamics of already being in a dominant position, having him 'at my mercy' with a sharp instrument in my hand." Minerva saw the association with childhood terrors about going for a haircut,



sitting in the chair with the cape draped like a shroud and having the "haircutter from hell" going for your head.

Her friend and licensed colleague, Payne, immediately took to the idea and together they put it all together in a matter of months. They added Mistress Sara and Ashley, the receptionist to the staff and opened for business on weekend evenings.



Their shop is clean and bright and all black and white. There are five cutting stations and two shampoo sinks, but no St. Andrews crosses, spanking benches or bondage tables. They are a fully licensed, legitimate salon that complies with New York State requirements.

Most of the customers have been men, and we asked if Stephen's attendant, Michelle, was their first woman. "No," replied Minerva. "Our first woman was a robust Polish lesbian who insisted on calling me 'Helga.' We made her crawl on all fours to the sink and back to the cutting chair." "She trembled during the shampoo and jumped every time she was hit," according to Payne. "I told her to, 'Take it like a man, honey.'" Apparently, she loved every minute!

WHO'S WHO ON STAFF

The staff is an interesting combination of personalities and appearances. Minerva is a blond, Nordic type from North Dakota. She came to New York nine years ago and trained here for her cosmetologist's license. (She is also licensed in New Jersey.) *Payne Haircutting* is her second salon. She is also a part owner of a Manhattan shop with a different partner. She had been married to a friend of Payne's, but was widowed about a year ago. Her parents back home know she wears black leather while she works, but don't know why.

Payne is a petite redheaded Native New Yorker and a real "spitfire." She is licensed in New York and "worked her way through school," as a sexworker and topless dancer. She loves to "buzz" with the electric clippers that can cut very very close, approximating the effect of a shave. (She pointed out that straight razors are now outlawed in NYS and the buzzer can be more "interesting" than a disposable razor.) She likes to be



creative with body hair designs. Being married does not prevent her from being enthusiastic about her work.

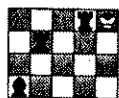
Mistress Sara is a friend of Payne's and comes from Colombia. She got her training while married to a "GI" and has worked in the field for 7 years, most recently in the Wall Street area salon before joining Payne's. She works as a bartender as well.

Rounding out the happy group is Ashley. A native New Yorker, Ashley has worked as a female impersonator and is currently Miss Puerto Rico 95. She comes to work as a woman and turns aside comments of her neighbors with, "This is who I am and this is how I dress, and the people that I work with don't have any problem with it." In those spare hours, Ashley volunteers in children's PWA hospitals.

IF YOU GO

You will need an appointment if you decide to make the trip to Queens, so call ahead. Right now they are open from 5 pm to midnight — Friday to Monday. They are still getting settled in, so we suggest that if you have a favorite "implement of affection," bring it with you. They intend to replace the metal handcuffs with leather restraints, but you might want to bring your own.

And what does all this attention cost? Figure on \$40.00 for "the works." If you have recently had a haircut, but still want the Payne experience, you can



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Conclave '95, The Sequel's Sequel

by Adam and Gillian

What was billed as an S/M friendly swingers' convention last year, has taken a different tack in its second year.

According to the organizer's mailing: (*emphasis added*)

"What distinguishes 'THE SEQUEL' from the March CONCLAVE?? The basic format will be the same as the past sixteen conventions. ... over 20 workshops, playshops and discussion groups covering every conceivable subject of interest to our lifestyle including ... Body Image, Fear of Rejection ... B&D 101 and 201, Sensual and Loving SM, Japanese 'Soft' Rope Tying Techniques, Teasing with R&P (Restraint and Pleasure). ... Our workshop leaders include M.D.'s, PhD's, leaders in the swing community, and B&D and R&P enthusiasts.

"The main difference is that 'THE SEQUEL' will give *equal* emphasis to R&P (Restraint and Pleasure) and B&D (Bondage and Discipline) as it does to 'conventional swinging.' Many of us cross over the line of conventional swinging into *mild* bondage, restraint, teasing, and/or *light* spanking in our sex play and we feel that *mild* B&D and R&P are compatible to many swingers.

Make no mistake: we have no intention on making 'THE SEQUEL' a heavy S&M and/or 'Living in Leather' type convention. The emphasis regarding R&P and B&D will be as a means of foreplay and teasing with orgasmic pleasure as the end result. We are NOT soliciting the strictly 'corporate' S&Mers.

CONCLAVE was, is and will continue to be a couples and single ladies ONLY swingers conven-

tion. There will be two party suites open every night, one for the conventional swingers and one for the R&P and B&D crowd.

"Besides the workshops, exhibits, meals and dances, Conclave always sponsors two party suites. One so we can play with our new found friends and the other so you can experiment safely under the guidance of veteran dominatrix's, dominantes,(sic) and submissives.

"Our latest addition, the R&P suite, features an expanded party area and a connecting bedroom with many of the toys, devises (sic) and equipment used by players in the restraint and pleasure and bondage and discipline crowd. You can experiment under the guidance of professional players in the B&D and R&P arenas, or be a voyeur and pick up some clues as to how to incorporate a little 'kink' into your sex-play."

Editorial note: On the basis of the Conclave's position statement, we opted not to attend this year, either as vendors or as workshop leaders.

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October is
Banned Books Month.
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right to read anything
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Carpeted floors are no problem; a nail or screw of reasonable size can generally be driven through a carpet and later removed without showing a trace. Just don't wind up the carpet fiber on a screw or drill bit. When in doubt, try a test in an inconspicuous corner of a closet, or unscrew an edging strip in a doorway and try a sample hole under that.)

A small slit can usually be made with a razor blade in wall to wall carpet without being visible, especially if it is out of direct traffic. The deeper the nap of the carpet, the easier this is. With some equipment, it may not even be necessary to go through the carpet at all; check out some of the "carpet shields" sold at office furniture places. These are tough plastic mats with small spikes on the underside; the spikes keep the mats from slipping around and the mats protect the carpeting from the wheels of office chairs and the like. If some of this stuff is glued to the underside of a piece of equipment, it won't slide at all on a carpeted floor. (Kinky people have been known to turn these mats points up, for all sorts of nasty creative purposes!)

DOORS

Almost every room has at least one door, and often a hinged interior door is the strongest thing in the room. Thinner ropes, such as nylon clothesline, can be fed through the crack and tied around the hinges, giving very secure anchor points. The door-knob of such a door is often strong enough to hold the end of a line against a straight pull; the straight-line pull will mean the door will not try to swing. Like all major tie points, test doors

and doorknobs with twice the weight they will be asked to bear in play. Remember Murphy's Law. Don't expect a doorknob to hold against any pull except at right angles -- for instance, don't latch the door and ask the worn or flimsy latch to take much of a door-opening strain at all.

I have seen a (sturdy) door with holes drilled near its top edge; they were neatly painted and looked like vents. They were large enough, and sanded smoothly enough inside, to pass ropes easily, which is exactly what the owner used them for. I have seen ads in magazines for metal hooks to clip over the edges of a door; they claimed they could be used with the door open or closed. In either case, one could have tie points near the ceiling without making any holes; the ad claimed they were great for motel rooms.

Windows and doors. Walls, floor and ceiling. Great possibilities for every part of a room; and at least some of each can be as discreet as you please. This also means that you can have them in more than one room in your place. After all, if we make the effort, more of us eventually meet other players. Since every player is different, the more play options at home the better. This goes double if we end up hosting parties! Even people with a full-time dungeon room will find that a good party can quickly overcrowd it.

There's no reason why a player can't have a good play space, great fun, and still get their damage deposit back, or sell their home to someone vanilla. Learn and enjoy!

Spanner Update

The application by three of the 16 defendants in the Operation Spanner trial to have their convictions for assault resulting from consensual SM activities overturned was heard by the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg in January 1995. By a majority vote, the Commission decided that their case should go forward to a full hearing of the European Court of Human Rights. This is likely to take place in late 1996.

This is a major hurdle that has been passed. Eighteen members of the Commission heard papers by the applicants' lawyers and representatives of the British government arguing whether or not the Spanner convictions interfered with the applicants' rights to privacy under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

The "Spanner Men" hailed the decision as a vindication of their assertion throughout that consent

should be a defense to charges of assault when the SM activity was consensual and resulted in no lasting harm.

At the same hearing, the Commission considered an application by five other people (the Liberty 5) who claimed that the SM activities in which they engaged made them liable to prosecution. The five had never been prosecuted for assault as a result of SM activities but European Court precedents have allowed applications from people who were of a class likely to fall under a law which was being contested.

Since the original Spanner convictions there have been no prosecutions in the United Kingdom for assault where both parties consented. However, there has been increased police interest in heterosexual SM clubs which have been threatened under more ancient "disorderly house" laws.

All of the Spanner Men have served their sentences and have been released from custody.

(Information from the Internet.)

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FROM THE BOOKSHELF

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The Topping Book

by Dossie Easton & Catherine A. Liszt
Greenery Press, 3739 Balboa Ave. #195, SF, CA 94121
(415) 752-3700

This book is different. Rather than compete with every other book on "how to do SM", *The Topping Book*, or, *Getting Good at Being Bad*, complements the other manuals and guides. It completes the first level of introduction without repetition — and provides an interesting read, besides.

Authors Dossie Easton and Catherine A. Liszt (aka "Lady Green"), and their accompanying illustrator, Fish, have returned to examine the counterpart of their first collaboration, *The Bottoming Book*. That slim volume probably had a rougher time in its inception - it was less even than the new book, and felt somewhat disjointed from time to time. Nonetheless, it was useful and interesting as a regional and personal-style laden examination of the Bottom as a creature apart. In this book, Easton and Liszt tackle the Top. And bring that elusive critter down neatly and with a certain flair.

They start, practically, by answering the question that has most tops grasping for words and waving their arms around in frustration: What's in it for the Top?? They cover the emo-

tional aspects very neatly, without dropping into the physical. It would have been easy to say something about how the top gets to have someone to get off with, for example, or someone to fuck. But they keep to the more-or-less universal stuff, and leave the individual boundaries and activities to their frequent personal vignettes. (In fact, later on, they specifically mention sexual activities as something to be specifically negotiated.)

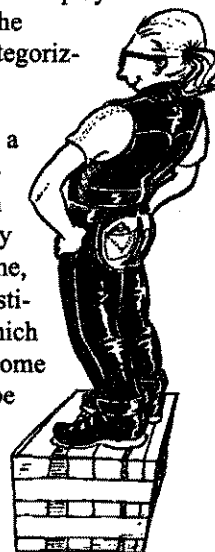
Then, they launch immediately into a Top's Bill of Rights - including:

- "the right:
- ...to be clearly communicated with
- ...to expect support from your partner - whether you're in scene or out
- ...to get your needs met
- ...to responsiveness..."

This is good stuff, important stuff. They repeat, (from *The Bottoming Book*) a suggestion that these are not "basic" books, and that people beginning to do SM play obtain one of the "how-to" books or attend seminars before actually playing. And although reading is a good thing and safety is always an issue, they shouldn't sell themselves short. Many more novices are "injured" by people not knowing the emotional safety issues of powerplay than by a slipped knot or a household object used incorrectly. Also — the clear guidelines given here on negotiation and communication will serve a novice much better than step-by-step instructions on how to make a rope harness.

They don't waste time on the patently obvious, but instead cover things with admirable restraint (no pun intended) and move on. They cover potential problem spots with common sense and strong advice, and all in all, offer an excellent guide to topping, both for the rank novice and for the player who just wants words to put to all the thoughts and feelings that have resisted categorizing.

As in *The Bottoming Book*, there is a strong sense of West Coast style throughout *The Topping Book*. No surprise. Both authors are in San Francisco, and play extensively within that community. For me, this meant a tad much on the spiritual/mystical side, an emphasis on relationships which are fluid and non-monogamous, and some touchy-feely New Age stuff that seems to be threading gradually through the leather scene out West. But certainly, there are plenty of people who would find such material interesting or personally useful.



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the sales of this book (minus a reasonable \$1.00 processing fee) are going to Hands off Washington and The Pride Foundation, two groups which are fighting for the civil rights of lesbians, gays, transgendered folks and kinky folks.

A big hand to Aubrey Hart Sparks, who compiled this fascinating collection of the second most popular topic at any given leather bar. (The first being opera, of course.) Our copy came with a postcard of one of the startling pieces of interior art from the cookook — these drawings, by Michael Max Youngs, are nifty enough to frame in any dungeon. (See below.)

At \$14.95, you can't beat the value. There are only about 150 copies left. Order now, so you can whip up some nice Surly Bitch Saucer Cookies, just in time for the holidays. Get several ... they make great stocking stuffers — and you get to feel good as well as eat good. *Mangia!*

Order *Doomed Rabbit* from:
Eros, 1202 East Pike Street, #656,
Seattle, WA 98122-3934.

The style is familiar and conversational, with poetic touches from time to time which have Easton's pen swipe all over them. The galleys we got for review didn't include the promised resource list, so we can't comment on its quality. But over all — a nice piece of work on an important aspect of SM that is often taken for granted.

So, what's next? *The Switching Book*, or *Getting the Best of Both Worlds*?

Doomed Rabbit

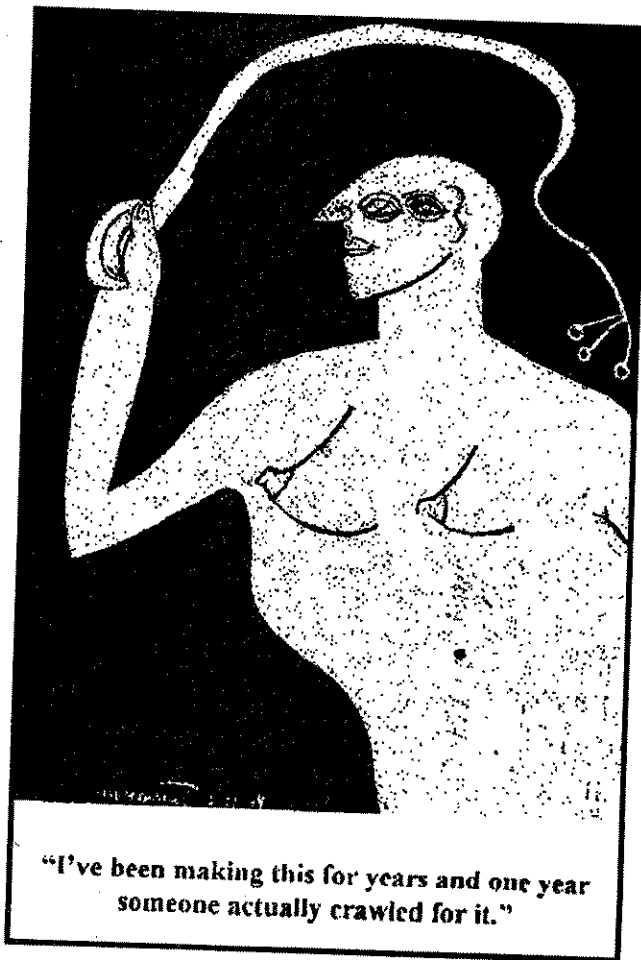
Edited by Aubrey Hart Sparks

On the SM/leather bookshelf, you can find books on how to whip and how to make whips. How to tie knots and unknot tangled emotions.

But this is the first book to tell me how to make Orange-Poppy Seed Belgian Waffles! *Doomed Rabbit* is unique among non-fiction SM publications — it's a cookbook. And not any cookbook — but a fairly diverse, interesting and useful cookbook that can guide you through the complexities of Backwood Bayou Bunny Bordelaise to the ease of a simple Dungeon Carrot Salad?



With recipes gathered from an assortment of famous (and infamous) Pacific Northwest leatherfolk (and a few from further down the coast), this is a cookbook that deserves its place in your kitchen. And not only because it's handy to have recipes for easy-to-make spaghetti sauce, or On Your Knees Chutney, but because it's a fund raising effort. All profits from



"I've been making this for years and one year someone actually crawled for it."

Secrets of Throwing the Bullwhip

by Mitch Kessler

In mid September, Mark Allen and the Wild West Arts Association host its Annual East Coast get together at Wild West City, Netcong NJ. Gunslingers, trick ropers and whipcrackers, of all skill levels from near beginners to semi-professionals, come to swap tricks and stories, generally socialize, and show off with and for each other.

Mark Allen himself, although born and raised in the environs of New York City, is a world class trick rider and cowboy performer. With Alex Greene he has produced one of the most useful instructional tapes on longlash work, rope-spinning and pistol juggling. He also runs probably the largest retailer of longlash whips in the US, which also provides a host of necessities for Cowboy Artists from a two-dollar spinning rope for beginners, to beautifully made gunbelts costing a thousand dollars and more — plus a wide range of books and videos celebrating and teaching the Cowboy Arts and Crafts.

At such a gathering it would be odd not to learn a lot, by watching and doing — and to pick up some hints and secrets as well.

The first big secret of Cowboy Whip performers is that the “CRACK” of the whip and the impact on the target are not necessarily related events. In most tricks, the sound made by the popper precedes the hitting of the target, which is usually designed or prepared to break or move when hit. Typical targets include sticks of polyethylene foam, pasta, and sheets of newspaper. Any contact with any part of the whip will break these targets. Striking with the popper is rarely necessary. Rolled newspaper targets are cut with either the popper or the fall, depending on the performers’ personal technique.

In films, the actors, however well-schooled with their whips, usually get a bit of help from the special effects department. In *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Harrison Ford actually used between three and four (depending on who’s doing the talking) different kinds of whips for the various stunts of “reaching,” “wrapping,” “cracking,” “hitting,” and “just for show.” In *Batman Returns*, plaster statuary was rigged with explosive squibs, so Michelle Pfeiffer would appear to be whipping their heads off. And if Lash LaRue ever actually succeeded in making a whip go “crack,” he has never claimed it, and no film actually shows it. Lash launches the whip, the camera cuts away, we hear the crack, we see the lash hit, wrap, or whatever. All of which is to say that Hollywood films are not a good guide on which to base our own performance expectations.

The stunt that is most misunderstood, and most likely to tempt the newly proficient longlash artist to folly is the Wrap Around. The stunt appears simple. The whip artist cracks the whip which then wraps around a person’s wrist, waist or neck. In another version the whip is wrapped around an overhead beam or rod, then used to swing on. This final trick can actually be done — sort of.

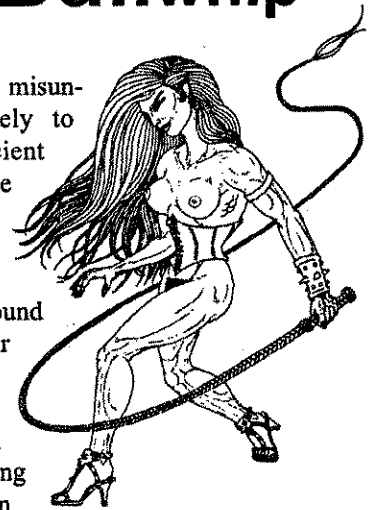
The wrap can be accomplished, but the attempt to swing on it will probably result in a broken whip and bruised butt. The UNwrap can present a problem as well.

In the Body Wrap stunts, here is what actually happens: First, the whip cracks, dissipating most of its force and speed. Then the lash, fall and popper of the whip wind around the limb or body. Since this wrap is load-bearing only by accident, if at all, the target (called an “assistant” if female or a “stooge” if male) grasps the wrap ... indicating surprise, agony, or serene confidence, as called for.

Learning this stunt: forget about human targets, short whips, or small rooms. A 1” diameter dowel is a suitable target and a 10 to 12 foot whip are about right to start. Thicker targets and shorter whips come with practice. The goal of practice is to turn a forward “Circus” Crack on its side so that the “crack” occurs a little to one side of the target after which the “follow through” is exaggerated a bit, so the last one to three feet of the lash, plus the fall and the popper continue in an arc, wrapping the target.

It might be useful even before starting on this stunt, to study the trajectory and general behavior of your circus crack throw. If your popper is a dark color, you might want to replace it temporarily with a bushier white one ... so you can see it better. Slow down your throw until you begin to see the shape the whip assumes in flight, and the path it follows in an overhand throw. That’s the shape and the path you want to maintain as you convert the overhead to a side-arm move.

At this point you can start developing a side arm throw and follow through that will not 1) smack you on the back as it moves toward the target or 2) poke you in the eye returning from missing the target. This is the stunt for which you want to wear full protective clothing — a double layer of loose cloth.



A sweatshirt with a hood is probably adequate protection for neck, throat, and ears. Facial protection could be a ski mask or a machinist's mask. Gloves are optional.

This gear will still let you feel your mistakes, but gently enough to prevent creating lasting marks or developing a habit of flinching.

Some performers use a vertical pickup to start this trick and change direction in mid-air ... some start with the whip straight out in front of them, or approximately 45 degrees to the side "past" the target. Try both. Pick one. Practice it. Practice the other. Pick one.

Once the throw and follow-through work, it's time to put the crack back in by gradually accelerating the whip.

It speeds things up, if at this point you find out where in the throw your whip cracks. If you dip the popper in water or chalk dust, the crack of the whip will make a puff of smoke at the point the whip went supersonic. You'll probably be surprised at how far "before" or "above" your aim point that puff will be. You may also be a bit surprised that after one crack a wetted popper will be dry and a chalked popper will be almost completely clean. Personally, I find this second phenomenon more inconvenient than illuminating.

The final word? Practice, practice, practice! As you gain more control over your whip, you can graduate from an inanimate object by itself to an inanimate object held by a volunteer, and then to a protectively garbed limb. After that, you'll have a come-along technique that will leave no doubt to your mastery of the single lash.

Anything for Love '96

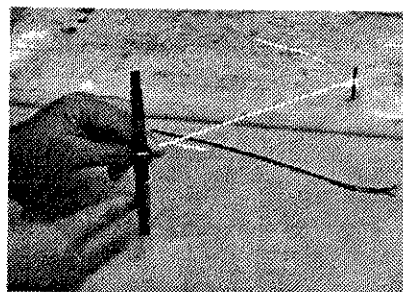
The "Second Annual Convention of Eroticism" will be held on March 1st-3rd, 1996 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. Sponsored by The Eros Group, it is described as an event for all "kinky" people - no matter what your kink, your orientation, your preference or your fetish, there will be something of interest at *Anything For Love 96*.

For more information, or to register, write to:

Anything for Love,
P.O. Box 19305, Cincinnati, OH 45219
or call (513) 542-2207.

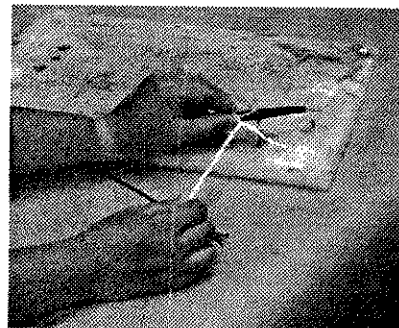
Making Your Own Poppers

If you make your own bullwhip "poppers" you can have exactly the size, density and color that you want. "Store-bought" popper sare designed for an "average" whip and are usually black. But with a white popper it is much easier to see where the tip of the whip is actually going. A thin, short popper cracks easily with a sharp report, and cuts "hard" targets, such as playing cards, well. A large, bushy popper takes more effort to crack, produces a lower tone, and is less damaging to "soft" targets, such as people.



Cut a piece of lightweight (#18) twine about 4 feet long. Make a slip-knot at each end. Fasten one end to something solid, such as a nail, and the other to a pencil or dowel.

Holding that end between your fingers, turn the pencil COUNTER-CLOCKWISE, so the string tightens and begins to "shrink." As you feel the tension increase, grasp the string at the center while bringing the other hand to the fastning point. The string should now twist around itself. Tie a knot about 8" from the twisted end.



Take the string off the nail, and smooth out the kinks, trim and attach to the fall of your whip. A few cracks will unravel the free end. Trim the "fluff" a little at a time.

Soon you will have an unlimited supply of poppers that are just right for your whip — plus the satisfaction of having made them yourself.

Personals (continued from page 19)

First, learn the abbreviations — but use them sparingly. “SWDM, Smk, sks SWD/SF, Sag/M, for SM, BD, DS, RP, C&BT, T&A and lots of TLC” may look mysterious and tantalizing to you when you write it down. It may even seem clever. But to a reader scanning columns of small type, it’s just a bunch of letters. It doesn’t soar, it doesn’t sing. It also has no personality whatsoever. You have to stand out to be noticed — and you have to say something about yourself that is more than what you like to do.

If you can afford to be wordy, take advantage of it. It always amazes me that in areas where advertisers are not limited in how long their ad can be — like on the Internet — and places where the by the word charge is very low — like in small magazines — people still feel constrained to be brief. And while brevity is the soul of wit, it does not charm the random reader, to mix metaphors. If you have the space, USE IT.

But if it’s costing you by the centimeter and you need to pack the most in the least space, try using humor. Everyone likes someone with a good sense of humor — and you can double up on space by using the right humor to reveal something about yourself as well. For example, I saw a cute ad that started out, “Snidely Whiplash seeks Penelope Pittstop.” I immediately got the picture. Probably many wouldn’t — but then, they might be too old, too young, or not exposed to enough Saturday morning television for this guy’s taste. Either way, it made me read the ad, and chuckle — and remember it.

Media references are often a good bet, especially if something is near and dear to your heart. “Female Capt. Picard sks female Number One — Let’s explore strange new worlds. If I give the order, will you make it so?” lets you know this is a serious *Star Trek* fan — and of the *Next Generation*, too. It also lets you know she’s a Top. Details can be worked out later.

Books also supply a good reference, although that can backfire. Too many people use *The Story of O* as a reference — and while it may seem like a wonderful fantasy, unless you’re seriously into a 24/7 relationship with marks of ownership and all the other trademarks of that novel, starting your ad, “Return to Roissy,” may turn away more women who might have been perfectly willing to be tied up and spanked, but were not interested in being pierced and branded. On the other hand — if you’re placing that ad in a literary magazine, mentioning that you enjoy Rice’s pseudo-

nymous works, along with Califia, Queen, Preston and Oakgrove, and you seek a fellow intense reader of same, you might have some luck.

Oh yes, and while we’re on 24/7 relationships and whathaveyou ... ads that read, “Your true Master/Mistress is waiting for you! Strip, kneel, and write why you should have the right to serve me, you lowly slave!!” are not good bets.

Now, I know what you’re thinking — the person you know who places ads like that is always bragging about the number of responses he or she gets. But did you ever notice something else? They’re either still single, or their new relationships don’t seem to last long enough for you to actually meet the new lowly slave.

A woman placing such an ad will get inundated by responses from men. Many of them will ask for things — pictures, underwear, shoes. Some will declare eternal devotion. Very few will turn out to be available for any such relationship. A man placing such an ad and expecting women to answer will find that some of these luscious slavegirls are, in fact, men. Oops!

And while if you really want someone who you can call *lowly slave* and treat in that fashion, the number of people who will just sniff and skip that one, thinking, “*What an asshole!*” would amaze you. Those are potential partners out there. You might otherwise win their attention, affection and/or submission

and one day get to be as dramatic and hysterical as you like. But few — if any — people like being treated like that before the first date. So, if what you want is some sort of absolute owner/owned relationship, try to be serious without being offensive. In the real world, you still have to earn the right to call someone a lowly slave in public. Unless you like being an object of masturbatory fantasies, of course. In which case — go right ahead.

Be honest. Don’t describe yourself as a god, unless you are. Don’t add inches to your height by taking them off your waistband. And continue the honesty in what you are and what you’re looking for. If you’re exploring SM and aren’t sure whether you like top or bottom better, don’t think you’ll get more responses by saying you’re a top. If you’re new to it all, don’t brag about years of experience — the first experienced player who answers your ad will find out — and then you will have something new to discuss.

If you’re looking for a partner to live with and bond with and be monogamous with, the people responding to, “seeking pals for fun times,” will probably not suit you.

Gentle Dom D/s Lady sks Retainer
sks Rough Sub Family sks New Kid R&P

Bondage Pals seeking Wildman sks S/M
4th for bridge subduing

Pup needs L-Dyke seeks LTR
training SEX! SWM sks female
for nasty stuff Poly Perv

Likewise, if all you want is someone to trick with every once in a while, saying, "Devoted slave seeks Divine Being to worship with all my soul," won't help much. If your idea of slavery is being tied to the bed and tortured with your favorite vibrator, saying "Total slave seeks master to serve," is not the best way to express your longings.

Play to your strengths. Make a list of why you're such a great potential partner and see how much you can fit into the ad, one way or another. If you're witty and fun loving, say so. Think: "What do I want someone to see in me?" Your creativity? Intelligence? Kindness? Sensitivity? Zen Balance? Checking account balance? If you think it's important, you want your potential partner to think it's important.

At the same time, being very narrow in your criteria will narrow your field. Of course, everyone seems to want a young, slender/fit, attractive, well-off, stable, educated, intelligent person as a partner. But if you say: "Wanted: Dom female, 20-30, Catholic, Republican, model looks, independent w/college degree, car and private house. . ." don't be surprised if the mailbox remains empty for a while. A long while! You are entitled to your preferences, of course — but having an idea of which categories can be loosened up a little will increase your chances of a response. You can ask for photo/phone, but remember that women are less likely to supply those than men are, even to other women. And if you're advertising someplace where your photo will appear,

or you're offering to send one out, let's remember that honesty counts here, too. That ten-year-old photo of you may not be a good representation of how you look now. Trust me.

Be a good advertiser — answer your mail. Try to send a response of some kind to everyone who answers your ad. Even if you have to print up a form response saying: "Thank you for responding to my ad. Unfortunately, you didn't suit my needs. Good luck finding someone right for you." Anyone who sent something that was polite should get something. That way, you'll avoid a reputation as someone who isn't real. Some magazines scan reader complaints about unanswered ads, and will not accept future advertising from someone who made people feel like they wasted their time.

And don't give up. Just because the ad you worked so hard on got you a dozen responses, all inappropriate, doesn't mean you shouldn't try again. Run it again, in the next issue, or the one after that. Give it a chance to reach more people. If it doesn't work after a while, try changing it, or try changing venues. Remember — dating is no guarantee of a perfect relationship, either. Give it time and patience — and have a sense of humor about it all. That always helps.

Next issue: Advertising on the Net, Abbreviations and What They Mean, and the Art of Answering Ads.

PLEASURABLE PIERCINGS, INC. BODY JEWELRY

In Surgical Steel, Niobium, 14K Yellow and White Gold

**Nipple, Nostril,
Navel Piercing
Kits also available**

to obtain our catalog
send \$5 - U.S. funds

**Wholesale Inquiries
Welcome**

**Visa
Mastercard**

photo: C. Goll



**Nipple
Piercing
Video**

**Instructional & Educational
\$44.95 including shipping**

**Reasonable Prices
Fast Service**

**American Express
Discover Accepted**

Come Visit Our Retail Store at

Pleasurable Piercings, Inc. 417 Lafayette Ave., Hawthorne NJ 07506 • 201-238-0305 • FAX 201-238-9564

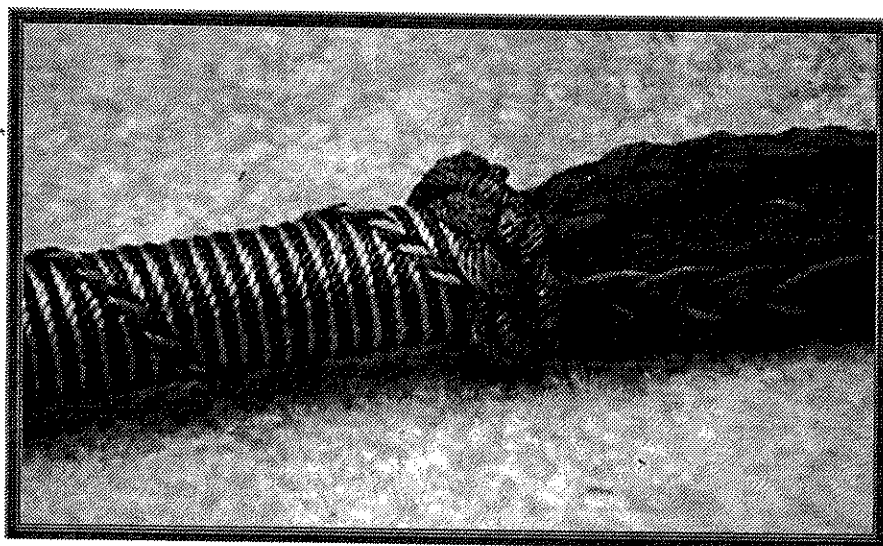


Quality and
Reliability
Since 1987



Adam and Gillian's Sensual Whips and Toys

SandMUtopian Guardian Advertisers Since 1988



The most complete variety of Whips, Floggers, Cats, Straps, Paddles, Rods and Rattan Canes, all made in one workshop -- and "feel-tested" for your pleasure. From the soft and gentle to the *Ohmygod*, in luscious colors and textures. Unusual tit- and geni-torture devices, like the Black Suckerfish™.

See our full color catalog on the world Wide Web: <http://www/catalog.com/utopian>
or send \$5.00 for our 24 page, illustrated catalog to:
The Utopian Network, POB 1146, New York, NY 10156
or with a credit card, call (516) 842-1711, M-F 11am-9pm or FAX (516) 842-7518

"... but we don't take American Express!"

Professional Submissive

(continued from page 13)

mistress which person interests you, if any, and pay for the time. Typically an hour is about 20% more expensive than a half-hour, so I suggest the hour.

Assuming there are no serious disagreements, things should proceed according to your desires. You'll get a ten- or a five-minute warning before the session is scheduled to end. The submissive has to answer that call, and if she doesn't you'll have company soon. In addition, if things get too quiet for too long, someone may call in to check to see if the worker is ok. Again, her voice had best answer the call at that point.

When things are over she gets dressed. It's considered polite to tip if you've enjoyed yourself, and considered a very good idea to tip if you plan to visit a house frequently. After a while the lady of the house will come and escort you back out to the door.

THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The two most common complaint workers have about the customers is: they don't know what they are doing, and they don't know what they want to do. If you are going to invest more than a hundred dollars in an experience, it makes sense to take some time beforehand to decide what it is you want. This is very useful for people who spend a lot of time as Tops in the SM community-at-large, as it focuses you on your own fantasy. Most tops have a collection of instincts and reflexes to ferret out the positive responses of their partner and focus there. Not a bad habit in general, but it doesn't apply when you are working with a professional. Also, if you get nervous it helps to have scripted it out beforehand, so you are less likely to forget those things that you really wanted to do.

There is less you can do about being inexperienced. Pretending that you know everything is probably a bad idea. They've seen good and bad technique before, and they know the difference. But remember, they are there to work with you, so you don't *have* to be SuperDom. And as all experience is practice, this will help refine your technique for later. Trying something outside your level of expertise is always dubious. If you are specifically there to try it out, let her know, so that you can try to get feedback of how the idea worked. This may not work though, since giving negative feedback is hardly a way to increase her tip.

I would suggest that anyone with the curiosity, time, and finances visit a professional submissive to see if it is something he or she would enjoy. And for the person who has everything, it would make a good birthday or Christmas/ Hanukkah gift. Certainly a present that they'd not soon forget.

Mystic Rose Books presents

Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns: The Romance and Sexual Sorcery of Sadomasochism

Philip Miller & Molly Devon

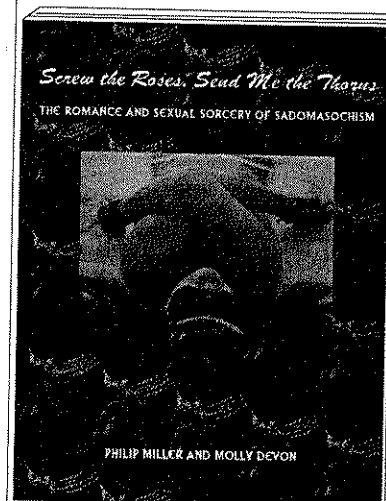
"How-To Book Is New Milestone in BDSM Literature"

-The Community Standard, Arlington, Texas

Complete guide to S&M by two experienced players - clear explanations, solid advice and steamy scenarios with over 225 photos and illustrations, contacts to over 650 S&M related clubs, stores, BBSS, craftspeople and literature! Softcover, 271 pages

"Dominants and submissives practicing within the guidelines of [authors] Philip Miller and Molly Devon in this book can find a safe and rewarding way to make reality of their fantasies."

- Dr. Wm. Granzig, President of The American Board of Sexology



"In the recent explosion of SM how-to books, *Screw the Roses, Send Me the Thorns* is a clear standout...what really sets this book apart is the pervasive and persistent sense of fun..."

-The SandMUtopian Guardian

"Mind play, body play, relationships, toys, stores, techniques, anatomical information, history, philosophy, psychology. It's all here!"

- Bound for Pleasure

\$24.95 plus \$3.75 shipping
For your copy send \$28.70
(check or money) to:

Mystic Rose Books
Dept. L
P.O. Box 1036/SMS
Fairfield, CT 06432

Welcome to the sensual world of delights,
For those who play hard, but with feeling!

Silver Smoke

Silver Handcuff earrings
Redwood Paddles
Chain Whips
NEW - Wooden Nipple Press &
Wooden Ball Crusher

by Cathy Ramirez
156-A East Lake St. #101
Bloomington, IL 60108
(708) 653-0130 Phone & FAX

Call or Write for our Catalog

Coming in Issue #20

More on Personal Ads
Step 2 in Making Your Own Furniture ...
a Flogging Post
Tit-Torture Suction Toys ...
and a few surprises, too.

Professional Submissive

(continued from page 13)

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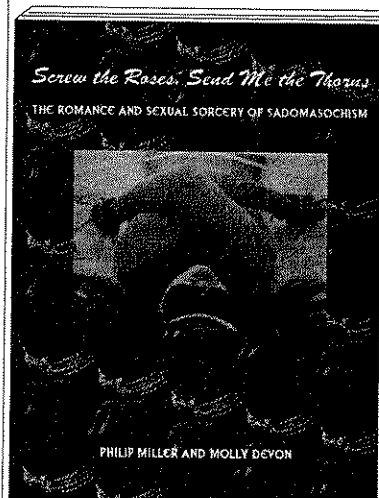
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Silver Smoke

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Step 2 in Making Your Own Funniture ...
a Flogging Post
Tit-Torture Suction Toys ...
and a few surprises, too.

Writer's Guidelines -- for *The SandMUTopian Guardian* a Journal of BDSM Realities

The *Guardian* is first and foremost a practical guide to safe and enjoyable exotic eroticism. Think of it as the *Popular Mechanics*™ of kinky sex. Our readership includes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and power polarities. While readers' experience levels range from "just thinking about it," to "lifestyle devotee," we want to be especially mindful of, and useful to, the *less* experienced reader.

Work can be submitted typewritten, or as an ASCII file in PC or Mac format.

PAYMENT: We pay — not lavishly, but respectably. Please contact us for particulars, including special situations, including illustrations, and reprints. Contributors get a copy of the magazine they appear in.

We buy one time serial rights with a one time reprint provision. Payment is on acceptance, and we will respond to all submissions within 60 days. SASE required for return.

We take the broadest possible view of what are appropriate topics, so long as content provides *information*. No fiction, fantasy, poetry or polemic.

Topics could include:

EQUIPMENT: how to use it, where to buy it, how to make it.

TECHNIQUES: physical, psychological, technical how-to's.

RELATIONSHIPS: Roles & Goals, Paradigms of Submission ... "making it work" articles.

EROTIC SCENARIOS: how they're done, pleasures expected, health and safety concerns.

PERSONALITY PROFILES: Biography or interviews.

LEGAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: history, current status, possible outcomes, importance.

IDEAS: Essays, "Op Ed" Pieces, Personal Testimony.

(To be useful, "idea" pieces need more fact & observation — less opinion & reaction.)

CRAFTS AND SKILLS: "Merit badge" stuff, woodworking, knot tying, braiding, first aid, etc.

In fact, almost anything touching on BDSM, Fetish, Power Exchange, might be a successful article, so long as it meets the primary requirement of imparting some *new* information or creative inspiration to at least *some* readers.

SHORTER PIECES.

We also buy "filler" pieces: humorous anecdotes, tips and hints, cartoons, media clips.

VIDEO AND PRODUCT REVIEWS

What Authors, Producers, and Craftworkers have to say about themselves and their work is probably more useful, and more interesting to readers, than critique by us. We want product releases, and book and video previews, in which they describe their own work in their own words. Since not every author wants to be his/her own reviewer, we will also be doing traditional reviews of material submitted. We also buy reviews from writers.

We look forward to hearing from you.

DEADLINE:

The next issue of *The Guardian* is #20, and will be ready for the printer the first week in January. If your piece misses the deadline, we will still be buying and paying as we go. In effect, we've got to worry about deadlines ... you can just work to your own schedules.

ARTWORK AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists and illustrators are invited to send samples of their work by way of self-introduction. Almost all illustration will be commissioned for particular articles. Possible cover art, photo-essays and folios will be considered on their own merits. We want to project enjoyment, respect, safe-and-sane practice, and consensuality — or at least *not* communicate the reverse.

We are *not* in the market for "pin-up" art, rigid bondage/genitorture studies or depictions of atrocities. Work can be submitted in MAC or WINDOWS disk formats. If photographs are accepted, we will also need the negative for proper reproduction — and, of course, Model Releases in keeping with the new law.

Photo Contest



Want to see your favorite
dungeon or SM photo
in *The Guardian*?

Want to win First Prize?
(A check for \$50.00!)

Send us your SM-theme photo.
We will select a 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prize.
Other entries will be published on a
space-available basis.

What is a "prize-winner?"
A picture that *says* something. (Not
just a pretty face or a nice bod.)

Groups are good — three is better
than two — odd numbers are more
interesting than even (usually).

We have our first entry ... in fact, our only
entry to date, and want to reward him for his
courage in being first: Captain Latex has sent
us a photo of "the legs, shoes and feet of my
main slave." Now we can have a new contest
to guess the number of pairs of handcuffs on
her ankles! Thanks, Captain.

Technical quality *does* count. Format
does not — you can submit color or
black and white, polaroids too. (No
slides, please.)

You need *not* be a professional to
enter. In fact, we encourage everyone
who thinks there is something special
about a particular photo to enter it.
Hey, you never know !!



If your photo is chosen for publica-
tion, we will need a model release for
each person in the photo and we need
to know that you have a photo ID of
the model as well. All entries become
the property of The Utopian Network.
Enter Today!

"The decision of the judges is final!" -- But, who are the judges?

We are. (It's our magazine, so
what we say goes, right? Not
exactly!)

In case you're wondering, what do
whipmakers think they know about
photography? --

Mitch Kessler is a graduate of the
Germane School of Photography in
New York. Mitch was a photographic
Artist in Residence at Hofstra
University on Long Island. He had a

photography and photo processing
business before devoting his time and
energy to whips and paddles and straps
and things.

Gerrie Blum grew up in her father's
photography business and studio in
New York. Jovega Studios was a pio-
neer in home portraiture and candid
weddings after World War II. Gerrie
worked in the black and white dark-
room and as a photographer for her
father, while she was a student at

Hunter College. Later she worked in
photojournalism for weekly newspa-
pers, in Rockland County and in
Manhattan, before meeting Mitch and
joining him in making whips and ...

So, we will try to be fair and impartial
in our judging. Which means that if
you don't win the first time, by all
means, enter another photo next time.
Besides, you will have the chance to
see your work in print -- win or lose.

Yes, I want to enter *The SandMUtopian Guardian* Photo Contest.

Enclosed is a photo I took. These are some interesting details about how it came to be:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State/Province** _____ **ZIP/Postal Code** _____

Country _____ **Phone** _____

I agree to the terms of the contest. **Signature:** _____

Every Household Needs a *Guardian*!

Keep *The SandMUtopian Guardian* coming direct to your dungeon!
Subscribe today. Don't miss a single article!

Have a Happy New Year with Issue #20 ... and #21 and #22 -- and #23!

Each issue will be chock-full of articles you can use --

Whether you are Top, Bottom or Switch --

Written by experienced and knowledgeable men and women

Ads for quality products from individual craftspeople, large stores or manufacturers

How-to articles, book previews and reviews and subjects of special interest.

If you did *not* get Issue #18, you missed:

How to make a belt into a pair of cuffs with an adapter you make at home;

Our legal-eagle writing on Consent as a Defense to Assault;

Reviews of two new general reference S/M books,
and three whipcrackin' technique tapes;

Playing with your food; Knife-play ... *and much, much more.*

Call or write today. We still have some copies of Issue #18 available.



The SandMUtopian Guardian

a Quarterly Publication of:

The Utopian Network

POB 1146, New York, NY 10156

(516) 842-1711 M-F 11am-9pm ET

FAX (516) 842-7518 Weekends (212) 686-5248

Yes, please enter my subscription to *The Guardian*.

Enclosed is: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order

Charge to my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

☐ \$29.00 for one year - 4 issues (US) ☐ \$39.00 for one year - 4 issues -Air Printed Matter Elsewhere

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____

Country _____ Phone () _____

(I am over 21 years of age and wish to receive this publication for my own personal education and entertainment.)

NOTES

This page has been left blank intentionally, so that you can have space for making notations about the articles in The SandMUtopian Guardian.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears slightly aged or off-white. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

Wanna be KINKY in the spring?
Wanna play the Master for once?
Ever had your genitals tortured?
Feel like having your nipples twisted?
Is there rope bondage in your fantasy?
Care to have your butt red from a hand or paddle?

HOW ABOUT SAN DIEGO MARCH 8-10, 1996?

Your fantasies can be realized at



Just give us a jingle at

1-800-598-1859

and we'll send you the **HOTTEST** package for the
HOTTEST Leather/S/M/Fetish event of the year!

**Workshops/Demonstrations – Two Dungeonfest Parties right in the
Hotel – Banquet – Erotic Leather Fashion Show – Leather Bazaar – S/M
University (for the "novice") – 12-Step Meetings – Social Gatherings &
Connections – and all sorts of KINKY & fun people to meet all weekend!**

Last year 1,000 attended and plan to return for more education and
punishment!

Discounts for Early Registration!

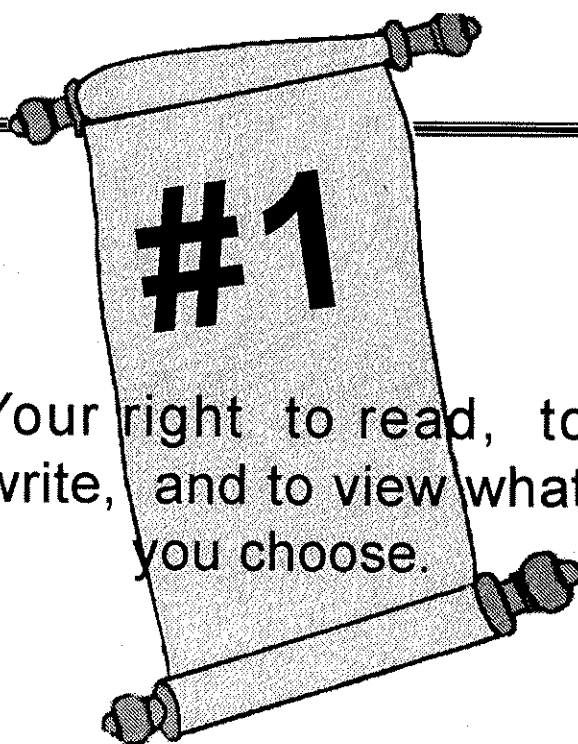
Sponsored by **CLUB X** (formerly NLA San Diego)
Regency Plaza Hotel at Hotel Circle
Rooms \$49.50/night. Reservations: 800-228-8048

Call or Write: **LEATHERFEST VIII**, P.O. Box 3092,
San Diego, CA 92163, 800-598-1859

Corporate Sponsors: The Crypt, Gay & Lesbian Times, The Leather Journal,
Update, The Eagle San Diego, and Wolfs San Diego

After reading this entire ad, do you *still* need more punishment?

This Magazine is made possible
by the
**First Amendment of
Constitution of the United
States of America**



Your right to read, to
write, and to view what
you choose.

Thank you for choosing

The SandMUtopian Guardian.

*Now, more than ever ... please support the
First Amendment organization of your choice.*

The SandMUtopian Guardian is a publication of The Utopian Network.